

THE TIMES



30P

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WEDNESDAY APRIL 17 1996



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Divorce and the royal soap opera PAGE 17



Divorce for the Yorks today

Duchess to lose HRH style under £2 million settlement

By ALAN HAMILTON
AND EMMA WILKINS

THE Duke and Duchess of York will today be granted a "quickie" divorce to end their ten-year marriage, it was announced last night.

The couple's case will be heard in the Family Division of the High Court at Somerset House, London, this morning. A decree absolute is expected to dissolve the marriage finally by the end of May.

In a statement issued jointly through their solicitors the couple said that the decision to divorce was a personal one, and for the sake of their children, which both regarded as of paramount importance. No further statements would be made and no further information provided.

The statement added that the couple's two children, Princess Beatrice and Princess Eugenie, would continue to live with the Duchess, although both parents would participate fully in their upbringing. It also said that the Duchess would continue to be known as the Duchess of York but would drop the appellation Her Royal Highness bestowed on her by the Queen at the time of her marriage.

Prince Andrew and Sarah Ferguson married in full glare of television coverage in Westminster Abbey in July 1986. They announced their separation in March 1992, and have since lived apart, although they have occasionally been seen together at events involving their children.

Downing Street last night said that the Prime Minister had been kept fully informed of the divorce plans. Officials said that there would be no further comment from John Major's office, as there were no constitutional implications. The Duke is fourth in line of succession to the throne, and his children fifth and sixth.

The announcement is understood to have been brought forward when it was learned that The Daily Mail was about to break the story.

Palace officials said private



Prince Andrew will take part in bringing up the children

ly that the Queen, who celebrates her 70th birthday on Sunday, had been anxious for some time that the failed marriages of her two elder sons should be brought to a quick and tidy conclusion but they stressed that the monarch had not written to the Duke and Duchess, as she had done to the Prince and Princess of Wales, and had not applied pressure on them in any other way. She had been kept fully informed and was saddened by the decision.

The Palace said that the Duke and Duchess remained close friends. They refused to discuss any financial arrangements accompanying the divorce, which they said were entirely a personal matter.

It emerged last night, however, that the Duchess is expected to receive a relatively modest settlement of £2 million, primarily intended to care for the couple's two children. Of the total, £1.4 million is to be invested in a trust for the children, leaving little more than £500,000 for the Duchess to maintain her lifestyle and to wrestle with

her debts. The deal is said to have been worked out at the time of the separation.

When the announcement was made yesterday the Duchess, aged 36, was in the middle of a week's skiing holiday with her children, Beatrice, 7, and Eugenie, 6, in Verbier, Switzerland.

The Duke, who is 36 and a full-time Royal Navy officer, was at Buckingham Palace. They were last seen in public together ten days ago when they left their home at Sunninghill, near Windsor Castle, to help round up polo ponies which had escaped during a fire.

Although the decision to divorce is officially said to have been taken jointly, the indications are that the prime mover was the Duchess. It is known that she has favoured such a step for some time, while the Duke has been reluctant to take the initiative, hoping that some reconciliation might be possible. The sudden move is seen as a bold and decisive step by the Duchess to cut her losses, given recent adverse publicity over her debts, said to be £3

million, and a climate of adverse publicity.

Later this week the Duke is to part in a lengthy naval exercise. The Duchess is scheduled to make her next public appearance in Leeds next week, at the launch of a drugs education programme.

Last night Dr David Hope, Archbishop of York, said he was praying for the couple. "I am aware that such decisions are never made easily or without careful consideration." Lord St John of Fawsley said: "I hope that stories about the Yorks will disappear from the headlines now, but my hopes are greater than my expectations."

□ The statement issued on behalf of the Duke and Duchess said:

"The Duke and Duchess of York today announced through their respective solicitors, Henry Boyd-Carpenter of Messrs Farrer & Co and Douglas Alexion of Messrs Gordon Dadds, that they have agreed, after more than two years' separation, that their marriage should formally be ended. Accordingly the necessary legal proceedings are under way and it is anticipated that the Decree Absolute will be made at the end of May."

The decision by the Duke and Duchess is a personal one, and theirs alone. Her Royal Highness The Duchess of York has chosen not to use the style 'Her Royal Highness' and will continue to be The Duchess of York.

"At the express wish of The Duke and Duchess and in the interests of their children, which they regard as of paramount importance, no further statement will be made or information provided.

Consistent with the statement made by the Buckingham Palace Press Office on 28 June 1993 the children will continue to live with The Duchess, and both parents will participate fully in their upbringing."

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Nigella Lawson, page 17
Leading article, page 19



The Duchess with Princesses Beatrice (left) and Eugenie are on a skiing holiday in Verbier, Switzerland

One minute to end a marriage

By FRANCES GIBB, LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

THE marriage of the Duke and Duchess of York will effectively end today without pomp or ceremony at the divorce registry in London.

The petition, lodged by the Duke, is the last in a list of 29 "quickie" divorce matters to be rubber-stamped by the Senior District judge, Gerald Angel, in Court One at Somerset House.

The grounds cited for the divorce — a fast-track procedure which will be scrapped by the Government's current divorce reforms — is that he and the Duchess have lived apart for two years. If either

had not consented to the divorce, then they would have had to wait five years.

The hearing, scheduled for 10.30, is likely to last less than a minute, even though lawyers

can be present. The names of all the parties on the list will be read, and barring any objections, decree nisi will be granted "en bloc". Within six weeks the final decree, or decree absolute, will follow in the post. Both are then free to remarry.

Because all the paperwork has been signed and sealed behind the scenes, the marriage will end, along with the

others ranging alphabetically from Mr and Mrs Agapong to Mr and Mrs Sacker, with a minimum of ceremony.

The days in which couples appeared in court amid public recriminations were effectively ended when the "quickie" procedure was introduced more than 20 years ago.

Under the Government's reforms, couples will have to wait at least one year before they can divorce and they will have had to reach agreement on children and finances, which is often not the case at present, before being granted what will be a divorce order.



Protest over Cyprus killing

The parents of Louise Jensen, the Danish tour guide who was killed in Cyprus by three drunken British riflemen, have protested to the Prime Minister over the Army's failure to offer them compensation or an apology — Page 6

Secret base

Russia has secretly built a vast underground military complex in the southern Ural Mountains, the Clinton Administration said. The complex covers an area the size of Washington and is served by its own railway — Page 13

Shares record

Shares rose to a record level for the second day in a row, with the FTSE 100 index closing 34.8 points higher at 3,825.3. — Pages 25, 28 and 30

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Ministers launch BSE court battle with Brussels

By PHILIP WEBSTER
POLITICAL EDITOR

THE Government put itself in conflict with Brussels again yesterday as it announced a legal challenge to the European Union's worldwide ban on the export of British beef and a £1 billion package of measures to help the industry.

It confirmed compensation for the destruction of up to a million older cattle a year to prevent their coming into the food chain and said that it was looking at the selective slaughter of animals considered most at risk from "mad cow" disease.

newing his demand for the ban to be lifted as soon as possible.

Heralding the most serious court confrontation yet between Brussels and London, John Major told MPs that action would be taken in the European Court of Justice in Luxembourg to end "this totally unjustified ban".

At the same time, he wrote to Helmut Kohl, the German Chancellor, President Chirac of France, Lamberto Dini, the Italian Prime Minister, and Tony Newton, the Commons leader,

renewing his demand for the ban to be lifted as soon as possible.

The Cabinet decided to launch the court challenge yesterday against the background of increasing evidence, particularly in the Staffordshire South East by-election, that its handling of the crisis has further damaged its standing with the public.

Ministers favouring a challenge, notably Brian Mawhinney, the party chairman, Michael Heseltine, the Deputy Prime Minister, and Tony Newton, the Commons leader, had been strengthened in their

case by the recent admissions by Franz Fischer, the EU Agriculture Commissioner, and Mr Santer that they were happy to eat British beef. The move comes as British beef consumption has returned to about 85 per cent of pre-crisis levels.

The ban is being contested on the ground that it goes against scientific evidence. Mr Major told cheering Conservative MPs: "The export ban on British beef imposed by the Community is more motivated by the interests of other countries' own beef markets than it is about public health."

Under the compensation package announced later by Douglas Hogg, the Agriculture Minister, and Mr Santer, farmers will receive about £500 an animal for the destruction of cattle slaughtered at the age of 30 months or more. The scheme, 70 per cent funded by the EU, will cost about £500 million and come into effect on April 29. The Government will pay for slaughtering such animals.

He also announced, among other measures: a top-up scheme worth about £80 million to compensate farmers with older beef cattle whose market value is above £500

and a £110 million scheme to help the slaughtering industry which has unsold meat worth £132 million, threatening widespread company failures unless action is taken.

The minister also promised urgent work on a scheme to exempt specialist BSE-free beef herds from the 30-month rule. He said the case for exempting such animals, which often do not mature until after 30 months, was strong.

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What is the function of
NUMBER 1?



what is the function of
NUMBER 1?

£1.4m for girls as mother tries to balance the books

BY EMMA WILKINS

THE royal divorce will ease the Duchess of York's financial crisis, which stems from her inability to restrain her lifestyle. A £2 million settlement, negotiated on the separation four years ago, is likely to form part of the divorce package, but the Duchess's debts of some £3 million will not be met by the Queen.

The Royal Family's main concern is to secure the financial future of Princesses Beatrice and Eugenie by placing money in trust, primarily for their education: £1.4 million is to be placed in trust for the princesses, from which £600,000 has been earmarked for a house they will eventually own. The Duchess will receive about £500,000 and the rest will be invested to provide a cash income to look after the young princesses.

Palace officials made it clear yesterday that the Duchess's personal finances were her own affair. Despite her best efforts to make a fortune from her children's books, the Duchess's fundamental problem is that her spending continues to far exceed her income. A love of expensive foreign holidays is matched only by excessive domestic costs: the wages bill for a



Kingsbourne: the home rented for £72,000 a year

string of servants at the Duchess's rented home, Kingsbourne, in Wentworth, Surrey, is some £32,000 a month while the eight-bedroom house itself costs £72,000 a year to rent.

Sunninghill Park, the Berkshire mansion which the Queen built for the couple as a wedding present, is occupied occasionally by the Duke. The Duchess and Princesses Beatrice and Eugenie are regular weekend visitors. The Queen's

displeasure at the Duchess's reckless attitude to money was made clear earlier this year when Buckingham Palace took the unusual step of announcing that the Queen was no longer prepared financially to support her wayward daughter-in-law.

The Duchess's ability to shop is legendary. On a recent trip to New York, she is said to have spent £3,000 on 20 pairs of shoes during a half-hour shopping spree. Only the best

hotels in the smartest resorts will do for the Duchess, who flies on Concorde and buys first-class seats for her entourage. She is the only member of the royal family voluntarily to pay the full fare others expect to be upgraded from Business Class. When the Duchess stays in New York, it is always at the Carlyle Hotel, where suites cost up to £1,000 a night.

An appearance in last month's *Hello!* magazine, which shot a series of photographs in Paris, may have earned a few thousand pounds but was widely criticised as cashing in on her status. She hoped to make a fortune from her *Budgie the Little Helicopter* books. A recent deal with a New York publisher to exploit two new children's characters (one is a globe-rotting little princess) has yet to bear financial fruit.

Similarly, a deal with Ray Chambers, a New Jersey millionaire, is yet to prove the financial success all which the Duchess had hoped for. It has been foreseen that Sleepy Kids, the company which owns the world-wide TV and merchandising rights for *Budgie*, would earn about £800,000 in the United States this year. The Duchess is unlikely to receive more than 20 per cent — a yearly income of £160,000 at the most.

The Duke, whose civil list payment of £249,000 is refunded to the Treasury by the Queen, earns £30,544 as a Lieutenant-Commander in the Royal Navy. Up to 80 per cent of his civil list income goes on staff costs, and he has been making a handsome financial contribution to his daughters.

The Duchess is negotiating with Tri Star pictures for an option on her story *Heather Blaze*, about the adventures of two mares with parallel and different lives.

There is talk of a Hollywood film on the life of the young Queen Victoria, based on two historical works written by the Duchess.

His weeks are split between his base, HMS Osprey on Portland, Dorset, where he is a senior pilot, his former marital home at Sunninghill, near Windsor, and a variety of golf courses.

Although he still carries out royal engagements, they are relatively few and rarely high profile. He has followed advice from Buckingham Palace advisers to keep his head below the parapet, maintaining his dignity in trying circumstances for the sake of his children.

The Duke has never made any secret of his enduring affection for his wife and is known to have made several attempts at reconciliation. Only last month it was reported that he had offered to abandon his naval career in a last effort to save his marriage, a move said to alarm the Queen. The offer was declined and it is reported that he then reluctantly agreed to a divorce.

Today, two months after his 36th birthday, royal commentators say he leads a somewhat "sad and directionless life".

The man who before his marriage was an exuberant bachelor prince linked with a string of glamorous women including the actresses Koo Stark and Katie Rabett, now



The exuberant Duchess has been unable to shake off criticism of her love of shopping and expensive holidays

Falklands veteran who has tried to keep his head down

BY CAROL MIDGLEY

WHILE his wife has loomed ever larger in tabloid headlines, the Duke of York has had a low profile since their official separation in 1992.

The Queen's favourite son once one of the most extrovert and photogenic of the royals, who fought for his country in the Falklands War, now cuts a solitary figure whose life revolves around his two daughters, his Royal Navy career and golf.

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The man who before his marriage was an exuberant bachelor prince linked with a string of glamorous women including the actresses Koo Stark and Katie Rabett, now

prefers to spend many of his evenings alone watching videos. According to friends, he enjoys thrillers, special effects and action movies, of which his favourite is *Top Gun*.

A tendency to compensate for his apparent loneliness by eating junk food has led to an expanding waistline and a weight of about 15 stone. *Slimmer* magazine recently named him their "Top Tubby" and newspaper headline writers have long labelled him the Duke of Pork.

As the senior pilot of the Fleet Air Arm's 815 Squadron based at HMS Osprey, the only squadron in the Navy which operates the Lynx helicopter, the Duke is in day-to-day charge, leading the squadron in the rank of lieutenant commander.

In the past he confessed to feelings of isolation while serving at sea. "As a commanding officer you can on occasions get extremely lonely and isolated if you're not careful," he said, comparing mine-hunting to watching paint dry. Since his marriage failed, the Duke has been seen with several women, including the model Catriona Skepper and Lord Braybrooke's daughter Caroline Neville.

Asked at the age of 22 why his photographs often dealt with loneliness he said: "I'm not lonely. I'm a recluse. I just try to keep out of people's way."

Of all the Queen's children, and from an early age, he gained the reputation of being the most adventurous and individualistic.

He was billed the Playboy Prince, the square-jawed helicopter pilot who fought with distinction in the Falklands and came home with a red rose between his teeth.

But he had also gained a reputation for being spoilt and prone to arrogance. Used to getting his own way, he was known to have insisted that even his closest friends called him "Sir".

The Prince's education began at the age of four with a group of children under a Palace governess. At eight he went to Heatherdown Preparatory School near Ascot, Berkshire. At 13 he followed the Prince of Wales to Gordonstoun School in Moray, Scotland, also spending two terms at a Canadian school in Ontario.

It was at Gordonstoun that he acquired the reputation of playing the "Great I Am" but, like his brothers before and after him, was not deemed up to the job of head boy. He was more noted for his sporting and theatrical activities than for his academic prowess, although he left with three A levels in 1979.

He had made his first solo flight as a glider pilot in 1976 and decided to follow his father and brother into the Royal Navy, choosing a 12-year short-career commission, which has since extended, as a helicopter pilot.

His career in the Navy got off to an inauspicious start. In the mess one evening he grandly informed a rear admiral: "You can call me Andy."

"And you can call me Sir," was the icy reply.

But by 1982 he was on board *HMS Invincible* bound for the Falklands. He was to see active service as a second pilot of a Sea King helicopter on anti-submarine and transport duties.



The Duke of York early on in his helicopter-flying career with the Royal Navy Fleet Air Arm

Couple's legal teams line up from opposite sides of social spectrum

BY FRANCES GIBB AND STEPHEN FARRELL

THE statement announcing the end of the Duke and Duchess of York's marriage was issued yesterday by two leading divorce lawyers who now act for the couple. They come from starkly contrasting backgrounds and to some extent each reflects his client.

Henry Boyd-Carpenter, the Queen's solicitor who is acting for the Duke, is of the old-world, strictly correct and courteous school and very much of the Establishment.

He is a partner with Farrer & Co where he was the obvious choice to inherit the mantle when Sir Matthew, who was previously the Queen's lawyer, retired two years ago. Mr Boyd-Carpenter, 56, an old Carthusian who went to Balliol, is described by colleagues and other lawyers who have to deal with him as "delightful".

The Duchess, by contrast, has gone to Douglas Alexiou, highly rated as a divorce "heavyweight" and listed as

one of the "magic circle" of London's divorce lawyers. She picked Mr Alexiou after switching from Withers, the firm that acted for her at the time the separation was announced and who helped negotiate the settlement announced yesterday.

One source said: "It is a very fair deal. You have to remember that the Duke is a serving officer, he does not have vast sums of money. The whole thing was sorted out amicably and without problems."

The deal includes a financial settlement for the Duchess as well as arrangements governing the upbringing of the children, in which the couple are to share jointly.

Senior partner with the Mayfair law firm Gordon Dadds, Mr Alexiou, 53, is a former chairman of Tottenham Hotspur Football Club. Charming but tough, he is likely to have struck a fair bargain for the Duchess, but without ruffling feathers.

an House in a cul de sac. His house is just 15 miles from the Duchess of York's Berkshire residence.

His wife was equally discreet last night. "My husband's business is his business. That's that. End of conversation."

□ The divorce of the Duke and Duchess will have few religious implications until either couple decide to remarry.

Although Church of England clergy are allowed under the law of the land to remarry a divorced person in church, under church rules marriage is for life and a divorced man or woman cannot remarry in church if their former partner is still living.

Because the Queen is supreme governor of the church, the church wedding of a senior royal could be a source of potential embarrassment. If either of them wished to remarry in church, the Duke and Duchess would be encouraged to go outside England, as did the Duke of York's elder sister, the Princess Royal, who remarried in Scotland.

**Megan's reading a booklet
that carefully explains the whole
process of buying a house.**



Megan's reading a booklet

**that carefully explains the whole
process of buying a house.**

Megan's buying her first house — well actually in her case it's a ground floor flat. Like most people, she was finding the whole process quite overwhelming, but last week she phoned for a free Midland guide and now feels pretty confident. It contains practical advice about making an offer, planning a move and getting yourself the right mortgage and insurance. So if you're buying your first house — or your first ground floor flat — why not call and ask for your own copy?

She called 0800 494 999.



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JULY 10 1996

Duchess who made Palace see red



Alan Hamilton reports that the Queen has grown increasingly anxious for the Yorks and the Waleses to bring their messy affairs to neat and final conclusions

WHEN the Duke and Duchess of York announced their separation in March 1992, one of the kinder courtiers at Buckingham Palace privately described the former Sarah Ferguson as "sweet-natured but vulgar". Another, less discreetly, confided that the knives were out for a woman regarded as a loose cannon on the deck of a royal ship which has become ever more storm-tossed.

Ply the Queen as she approaches her 70th birthday on Sunday. There must have been moments in the past three years when she felt that a life devoted to the consummate practice of constitutional monarchy was unravelling in her hands, and that the rock of monarchical stability had turned to sand and was trickling through her fingers.

The perception of the Royal Family as a model family may be an outdated concept dreamed up by Queen Victoria, ably supported by Waller Bagshot, that has had its day. But the Queen has been in no doubt that the untidy loose ends of her two elder sons' failed marriages have done nothing but damage the good name of the Crown, and she has grown increasingly anxious that the Waleses and the Yorks bring their messy affairs to a neat conclusion.

When Sarah Ferguson breasted on to the royal scene in 1985, gaily throwing chocolate profiteroles at the object of her desire across a country-house dinner table, many saw her as a breath of fresh air in the musty royal corridors, and a perfect foil for the seemingly demure, glamorous but shy Princess of Wales. With her Titian hair and expansive manner, she seemed an ideal partner for Prince Andrew, a headstrong war hero who had seen active service in the Falklands and who was himself a bit of a prankster.

Older heads tutted that Miss Ferguson had what is politely known as "a past", lived mainly in the fast lane with such partners as the racing driver Paddy McNally. The fact that she came from a broken home, with her mother remarried to an Argentinian polo player, seemed at the time not to matter; the Princess of Wales, then, at the height of her popularity, had after all not emerged either from a solid nuclear family.

Prince Andrew had an equally well-publicised past, which had involved a string of encounters with actresses and other defiantly non-royal partners. Loud and a touch buffoonish, they seemed well suited.

The fairytale marriage was sealed in front of a worldwide television audience in Westminster Abbey on July 23, 1986. It lasted rather less than six years; even Catherine of Aragon lasted three times as long, and she was only the first of six.

What went wrong? Only the two parties involved in a marriage really know, but from the beginning it was clear that the Duchess of York fully intended to live her own life, particularly as her husband was spending long periods away from home as a full-time career officer in the Royal Navy. She was especially determined not to bow to the fussy conventions of court life, with the result that she rapidly lost such friends as she might have had in positions of influence at the Palace.

Eyebrows were raised in the first days of their marriage,

when they commissioned a large, purpose-built family house at Sunninghill, near Ascot, whose vulgar style immediately attracted to it the name *Southyork* – an echo of the television soap *Dallas*. Soon afterwards the Duchess announced that she needed to earn a living like every other modern married gal, and was to become a children's author. Her *Budgie the Helicopter* books attracted their share of disaster. She was accused of plagiarism when it was discovered that a remarkably similar series had been published in the 1960s, and she was accused of worse when it was suggested that, instead of donating 90 per cent of the book's profits to charity, as had been understood, she was directing most of the proceeds into her personal account.

On their first overseas tour together, to Canada in 1987, the couple seemed gauche, he overweight and she clowning in awkward fashion. They accepted a pair of fur coats as gifts from a provincial nabob, an act which backfired seriously with the animal rights lobby in Britain.

While the Duke was pursuing his naval career, the Duchess appeared determined to keep up the social whirl and the same set of friends, that she had in her single days. She retained, in particular, her friendship with Paddy McNally.

Her endlessly energetic style, increasingly apparent not to suit her husband, tired when ashore from sea posts, or after a hard day's work at yet another demanding naval course. Many a night, he simply wanted to put his feet up, and the Duchess was increasingly seen at social functions without him.

Late in 1991, when the couple were still ostensibly together and looking after their two children Princess Beatrice and Princess Eugenie, a cleaner working in a Mayfair apartment found photographs showing the Duchess on holiday in Spain



The toe-sucking photos taken secretly in France

with a Texan, Steve Wyatt. The pictures were handed to police, but not before newspaperers had been made fully aware of them.

By Christmas that year, the Duke and Duchess were at Sandringham talking informally to the Queen of separation. The embarrassment bandwagon has never stopped since. The Duchess's father, Major Ronald Ferguson, was photographed emerging from a Mayfair massage parlour, and was later the subject of an unpleasant kiss-and-tell biography by a woman with whom he had had an affair.

Worse of all, the Duchess, who devoted herself almost full-time to jetting around the world on exotic holidays and running up huge bills, was secretly photographed at a villa in the south of France.



The Yorks' wedding had a worldwide audience but it ran into trouble early on, the Duke preferring a quiet life as the Duchess enjoyed the social whirl!

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THE TIMES WEDNESDAY APRIL 17 1996

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Paraglider bounces back from mile-high freefall

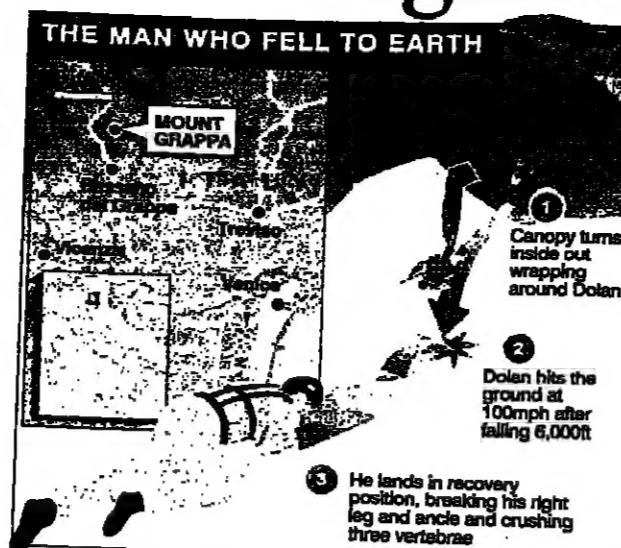
By PAUL WILKINSON AND KYLE SMITH

A PARAGLIDER who hit a boulder-strewn mountainside at 100mph after his parachute collapsed not only survived but expects to make a full recovery.

Pat Dolan escaped from a mile-high freefall with a broken right leg and three crushed vertebrae. He is paralysed from the waist down, but spinal injuries experts say he should be walking within months.

Mr Dolan's specially designed parachute, which acts as an aerofoil, collapsed when he flew into turbulence in the Dolomites in northern Italy. He had taken off from Mount Grappa at 5,000ft and soared to 6,500ft where he hit an "asymmetric tuck", which caused his canopy to collapse inwards. It wrapped itself tightly around him, preventing him from releasing his emergency parachute.

"There was no drag on my canopy to slow me down because it had wrapped itself around my arms and body completely. I was falling in the standing up position at about



100mph," said Mr Dolan, 39, whose accident happened three weeks ago.

Speaking from his bed in the spinal injuries unit at Pinderfields General Hospital, Wakefield, West Yorkshire, yesterday, he said: "All I could do was watch the ground as it got closer and closer. I didn't have time to think about anything else. I wasn't scared at all. I just gave

into the situation and let it happen. As I fell to within a few yards of the ground, I tensed up and shut my eyes tightly. I didn't feel any pain when I hit the ground. I just blacked out."

He puts his survival down to hitting a sloping surface. "I bounced up again and rolled downwards into a small mound of snow. I would have gone 'splar if I'd landed on a

flat surface, my body would have been smashed to pieces." He ended up in the recovery position used by paramedics when dealing with accident victims. "It was pure luck that I ended up rolling to a half-like that. I could easily have choked to death on blood or vomit if I'd ended up on my back. It was against all the odds that I survived. There were rocks all over and I was lucky to miss them all."

The former Army physical training instructor from Queensbury, near Bradford, West Yorkshire, who is a member of the Yorkshire Dales Hang-gliding and Paragliding Club, was also wearing a special backplate made of Kevlar, the material used in bullet-proof vests.

Mr Dolan was airlifted to hospital in Treviso, where surgeons inserted metal plates in his spine and took bone grafts from his pelvis.

Yahya Ahmed, consultant at Pinderfields, said: "We hope to begin active physiotherapy in the next few weeks to get him back walking again. He's very lucky to have the chance of walking, given the dreadful nature of his injuries."



Mr Dolan and his wife Liz after the accident. "I try not to think about how close I came to losing him," she said

Mr Dolan said: "I'm definitely the luckiest person on Earth. I couldn't wish for anything more than to be alive."

His wife Liz, 31, added: "I'm just thankful that he's alive. I try not to think about how close I came to losing him."

Dean Crosby, a former British champion and a fellow club member, said: "Pat is very lucky to be alive considering the height he fell from and the speed of his descent. An accident like that is extremely rare, almost a one-off. I

wouldn't say that paragliding is any more dangerous than any other sport. There is always an amount of danger and was paralysed below the waist."

In April 1994, Des Moloney, 28, of Chobham, Surrey, fell 3,000ft from a plane being flown by his brother when his parachute ripped and opened only partially. He was dazed but suffered only cuts, bruises and whiplash. When he landed on a grass verge near Sainsbury's in Colchester, Essex. Not too stunned to play

the wag, he told his brother: "Reports of my death are premature."

A 3ft-deep duck pond saved a New Zealand skydiver, Clint Freemantle, 22, who plunged 3,000ft in 1993 when both his parachutes failed to open. Mr Freemantle, after splashing down virtually without a scratch, said: "The first thing I did was stand up and shout 'Yes'."

After his own near miss, Mr Dolan said he intended to take up gliding as a safer pastime.



From the glory days of TV's *Come Dancing*: Victor Sylvester takes the floor with Sylvia Birch in 1955

BBC piroouette saves last tango in Bournemouth

By RUTH GLEDHILL

THE sequin and sashaying industries are safe. The determined smiles of ballroom dancers will be seen once more. The BBC has reprinted *Come Dancing*.

Britain's longest-running television show will come back for a 47th year in the autumn, after a deluge of letters and petitions followed the news that TV executives had lined it up for the axe.

In its glory days, the show has been hosted by a series of famous broadcasters, but ratings had fallen from 10 million two decades ago to 2.8 million last year. One BBC management source was quoted as saying: "People here feel that it has had its day. It has become a bit of a national joke rather than a national institution."

Dancers were already reeling from the shock of losing televised coverage of the British championships last year and blamed the low audience on the show's scheduling at 11.35 on Monday nights. Eric Morley, former head of the Mecca leisure empire, who has been associated with *Come Dancing* since he organised the original competition, said the show would go on again "thanks to pressure from the British public".

Writing in the latest *Dance News*, the dance competition world's weekly newspaper, he urges young supporters to attend recordings of the series at Bournemouth's international centre in May. "It is important that viewers do not get the impression that supporters of dance are all older people."

The ballroom show, first broadcast from the Ritz ballroom in Manchester in 1949, will be fronted by former

Generation Game hostess Rosemary Ford, who is on her fourth series, and will be screened in September.

Ms Ford is following a line which began with the original presenter, Peter Dimmock — who moved up the ladder into BBC management — and has included Peter West (1959-72), Terry Wogan (1973-79) and Angela Rippon (1987-92), along with career stages for Michael Aspel, Judith Chalmers and David Jacobs.

The new series will be in a different format, with team matches between "modern" couples dancing waltz, foxtrot, tango and quickstep, and "Latin" couples dancing rumba, cha cha, samba, jive and paso doble. There will also be a formation dance team competition, and for the first time an individual award for winning couples undefeated in their team events, even where their team lost.

Teams from Germany, Sweden and Holland will be flown over and some of Britain's top professionals, such as Donnie Burns and Gaynor Fairweather, the world latin champions, will give demonstrations.

John Leach, associate editor of *Dance News*, said: "It is very good news for dancing generally. There was an outcry when it came off."

Bill Irvine, who teaches at south London's Starlight studio — and won 13 world professional titles with his wife Bobbie — has been involved with *Come Dancing* for 40 years, chiefly as a judge. He said: "It is wonderful that it will be shown again. The BBC moved it to the later time and it lost viewing figures and then when it lost viewing figures they decided to take it off."

Simon Bettis, producer and director of the programme for ten years, said: "We will have the best amateur dancers in Europe competing."

He said the BBC had received "a tremendous amount of letters from all ages" and added: "There was talk of dropping *Come Dancing* but Alan Yentob, controller of BBC 1, has kept faith with the dance community by bringing it back."

"We are very pleased. British dancers are the best in the world, so it is good that they are back and will be able to strut their stuff again on *Come Dancing*."

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Mawhinney paint-bombers told they face jail



Nicholas De Marco, left, who was acquitted of the attack on Dr Mawhinney, with Naveed Malik, Karen Doyle, Anthony Gard and Amanda Egbe

BY LIN JENKINS

A TEACHER and three students were yesterday convicted for pelting Dr Brian Mawhinney, the Conservative Party chairman, with flour and paint and told they could be sent to prison. A fifth person was acquitted.

The magistrate rejected their claim that they were justified in attacking Dr Mawhinney as he made his way to a makeshift BBC television studio on Abingdon Green outside the Palace of Westminster after the State Opening of Parliament. Nicholas Evans, stipendiary magistrate sitting at Bow Street Magistrates' Court, said their argument that it would prevent him repeating remarks that could incite people to commit crimes of racial violence was one "no rational person" could accept.

Karen Doyle, 19, and Naveed Malik, 19, both student union officers at Kingsway College, north London, studying two A levels each, are suspended and could face

expulsion. Amanda Egbe, 20, reading philosophy at the University of North London, has been suspended for three months. Anthony Gard, 54, a teacher at Langston Primary School, Poplar, east London, has been given a final written warning and could face dismissal.

Nicholas De Marco, 29, president of the student union at Kingsway College until he was expelled earlier this year, who was said to have orchestrated the attack, was cleared of all three charges. Mr Evans said there was insufficient evidence against him.

The convicted four, all members of the Movement for Justice, a small group set up to campaign against the Asylum and Immigration Bill, admitted that they had deliberately targeted Dr Mawhinney. During their demonstration on November 15 they ignored the Chancellor Kenneth Clarke and other MPs as they left after the ceremony, saving their missiles for Dr Mawhinney.

Mr Evans said Dr Mawhinney and his

wife, Betty, who was also splattered, could have been injured if paint had hit them in an eye.

The four had been seen on television news footage throwing the missiles. Alan Duncan, parliamentary private secretary to Dr Mawhinney, had also been seen calling the police on a mobile telephone and trying to make a citizen's arrest.

Mr Evans said: "I make no observations as to the seriousness with which I regard this matter, save to say I cannot exclude the possibility that custody is the way of dealing with it." He adjourned sentencing to May 14.

Michael Schwarz, the defendant's solicitor, said it had been a political trial. He complained that the defence team was prevented by the magistrate from questioning Dr Mawhinney about allegedly playing the race card, which was "a key part of the defence".

The four, all from London, were given bail while presentence reports were prepared.

Parents of Cyprus tour guide ask Major for apology

BY MICHAEL HORNELL



Louise Jensen: Killed with an army spade

represent them in their fight. Mr Larsen said yesterday that seeking compensation was only a means of forcing the Army to admit responsibility.

In a letter to John Major, he says: "The world has lost a wonderful human being. The British Army and the British Government have lost a tremendous amount of respect around the world. The Army and Government may retrieve some of its dignity by offering compensation to Louise's family. Given a choice between all the money in the world and having Louise back alive, surely the family would choose to retain their daughter and sister. But they do not have that choice. However you and the British Government have a choice and the possibility to ease the family's pain."

If neither an apology nor compensation were offered, Mr Larsen added, the couple would take legal advice about civil action in the courts. He said: "The Army is claiming to have no responsibility. It is out of proportion that the Army had been on trial and said he was proud of disciplinary standards. Mrs and Mrs Jensen have appointed Morten Larsen, who leads a family support group, to

amid mounting criticism of the conduct of troops on Cyprus. Brigadier Arthur Denaro, Chief of Staff and Deputy Commander of British Forces on the island, denied that the Army had been on trial and said he was proud of disciplinary standards. Mrs and Mrs Jensen have appointed Morten Larsen, who leads a family support group, to



The Jensens: they want the Army to admit responsibility for soldiers' actions

The Ministry of Defence pointed out that Major General Alexander Harley, commander of British forces in Cyprus, had written a letter of condolence to the family.

In a letter to *The Times* earlier this month General Sir Michael Rose, Adjutant General, said the Army regarded ill-discipline with the "utmost seriousness" and was "deeply ashamed" that soldiers should have perpetrated "such a savage and despicable crime".

The soldiers' lawyers are to

appeal against their convictions on a technicality. They claim they were not properly arrested when they were stopped at a police roadblock two hours after the killing and that their clothing and the spade, which were stained with Louise's blood, should not have been produced as evidence. They also claim that the soldiers were so drunk, they could not have specifically intended to kill Miss Jensen, proof of which is required for manslaughter charges under

Cypriot law.

A spokesman for the MoD said: "If a claim were submitted it would be looked at sensitively and sympathetically. If there is a legal liability on the part of the MoD compensation may be paid."

Last night Mrs Jensen said:

"We want the Army to say

they are responsible for the

actions of their soldiers. We

are not doing this because of

money."

Leading article, page 19

Direct lifeline is thrown to savers

Daily Express 31.1.96

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Yorkshire Building Society Key 90 Plus	N/A	N/A	N/A	4.60%	4.60%	5.00%
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Lloyds Bank Investment (90 Day Notice)	N/A	N/A	N/A	4.25%	4.25%	4.65%
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NEWS IN BRIEF

Army saved from manpower crisis

The Army has been saved from a "catastrophic" manning shortage of 20,000 soldiers by the end of the century, after ministers reversed a number of policy decisions. General Sir Michael Rose, the Army's Adjutant General, said yesterday the shortage had become so catastrophic that by 2000 the Army would not have been able to fulfil obligations to the United Kingdom, Nato and the UN.

Problems had arisen from the Government's Options for Change defence programme, the closure of recruiting offices and the loss of well-trained soldiers, he told the adjutant-general's annual conference in London. Provided the Army was able to recruit about 17,000 soldiers each year over the next three years, full manning levels would now be reached by the end of the century. There were hints that a junior leaders' scheme could be restored.

Ex-husband questioned

Detectives were questioning the former husband of Karen Skipper, who was murdered on the bank of the River Ely in Cardiff as she walked her two dogs. Philip Skipper was arrested early yesterday at Fernside in the Rhondda Valley. The partially clothed body of Mrs Skipper, 34, was found on March 10. Her hands had been tied behind her back with a dog-lead. Tests showed she had been dragged through brambles and into the water where she was held under until she drowned. Police said yesterday that several witnesses were being interviewed again.

Two shot in attacks

Two men were shot in the legs in separate incidents in Merseyside early yesterday after gunmen burst into their homes. In the first attack, four or five men shot their victim inside his house in Bootle before fleeing. He underwent emergency surgery at Fazakerley Hospital, Liverpool. Half an hour later four masked men fired several shots into a man's legs in Anfield. He was treated at the Royal Liverpool Hospital. Police were unable to say if the two attacks were connected although early indications were that this was unlikely.

Nursery voucher rethink

Protests from private nursery schools have prompted a government U-turn allowing parents to use nursery vouchers throughout the summer. The Department for Education and Employment conceded that vouchers could be used beyond the state school term for children who went to private nurseries for only two or three days a week. Parents in the pilot areas of Norfolk and three London boroughs began using the vouchers yesterday.

Cranmer on computer

The Prayer Book Society, the traditionalist heart of the Church of England, has published the 1662 *Book of Common Prayer* on computer disk. The program allows clergy to choose appropriate hymns and readings for a Sunday and print them out in a ready-made service format. The society, which was founded to uphold Thomas Cranmer's language, said the software was "a splendid marriage of tradition and technology".

Monk admits assault

A Benedictine monk who admitted indecently assaulting a 13-year-old boy as he slept in a dormitory at Ampleforth College, North Yorkshire, was remanded on bail for a month for a probation report by magistrates at Merton yesterday. Father Bernard Green, 43, had taught history and was a housemaster for three years, but now gave his address as St Benet's Hall, a study retreat at St Giles, Oxford.

Home on the Thames

The Royal Academy is holding a competition for a new inhabited bridge across the Thames, spanning the river from Temple Gardens on the north bank to the London Weekend Television tower on the south. It would be London's first inhabited bridge since the houses on old London Bridge were demolished for reasons of health and safety in the 1700s, and the idea was warmly welcomed by John Gummer, the Environment Secretary.

Man walks into propeller

A passenger in a light aircraft was taken to hospital yesterday after he walked into the rotating propeller of the plane after it had made an emergency landing. The three-seater single-prop Cheetah was flying from The Netherlands to Cheltenham when it made a safe landing in a field at Walkridge Farm near Basingstoke, Hampshire. Police said the passenger broke an arm and had severe neck lacerations. The injuries were not life-threatening. The pilot and passenger were thought to be British.

Fault stops Archers

A crucial episode of *The Archers* was interrupted by a technical fault five minutes into yesterday's lunchtime broadcast on Radio 4. The episode centred on a family argument over funeral arrangements for the character Guy Pemberton, who died from a heart attack on Friday. Listeners will have to wait until Sunday's omnibus edition to hear the outcome. The BBC blamed a fault in a digital broadcasting machine. Dr Thomas Stratford, page II

Parents prosecute three

Three men denied killing a teenager yesterday in a rare private prosecution for murder. Neil Acourt, 20, and Luke Knight, 19, both from Eltham, southeast London, and Gary Dobson, 20, of Bromley, are accused over the death of Stephen Lawrence, 18, who is said to have been stabbed at a bus stop in Eltham on April 22, 1993. The prosecution at the Old Bailey has been brought by his parents, Neville and Doreen. The case continues later this week.

Lexicon celebrates calypso English

By ALAN HAMILTON

THERE is a good deal more to Caribbean English than reggae, calypso and dub. There is also *adhoocratic*, *humgrumshious* and a few other expressions best not explored too closely in a family newspaper.

Spree boys will be in *goat heaven* and *kiddie kingdom* to learn that the Oxford University Press, which monitors the Queen's English in all its variations, has produced the first dictionary of the *lingua franca* of the anglophone West Indies, where 5.5 million people claim a vibrant brand of English as their mother tongue. The dictionary, edited

might find it *pesterous* (irritating) to be told that he was looking *odsocky* (wearing ill-matched clothing). If he happened to be an *antiman*, *auntie man* or *panty man* (homosexual) he might well be *bazonked* (stunned).

Dr Allsop, speaking from his home in Barbados yesterday, said: "Caribbean English, which came from a meeting of African languages and the first English slave traders and plantation owners, remains extremely vigorous. This is the first attempt to bring together the variations in language throughout the region."

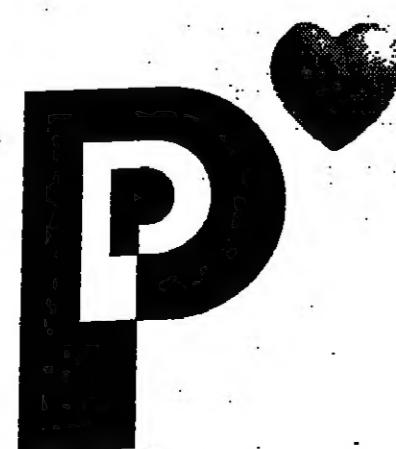
Dr Allsop admitted that dictionaries of a living tongue

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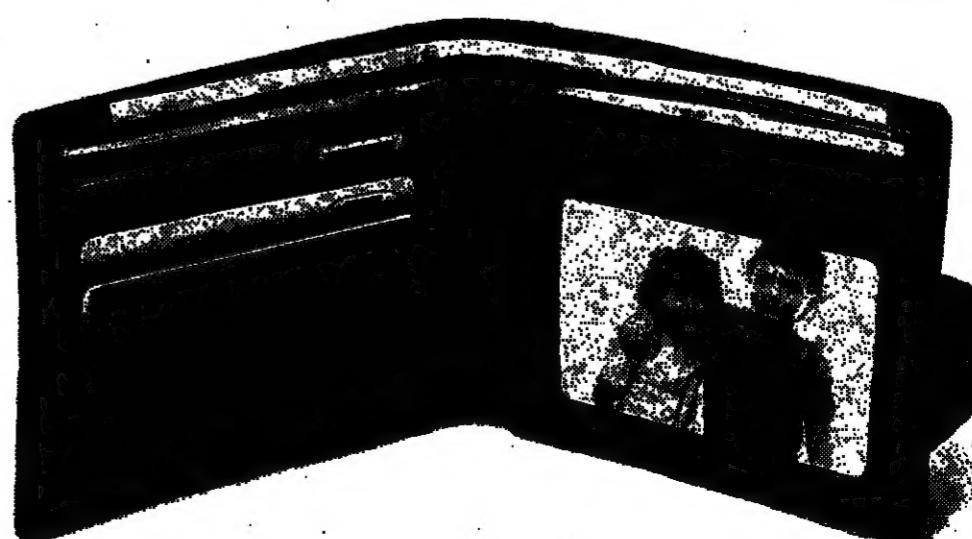
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THE TIMES WEDNESDAY APRIL 17 1996

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Inquest verdict of accidental death on terrorist who was 'author of his own misfortune'

Bus bomber was plotting as the IRA talked peace

By ADRIAN LEE

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Westminster Coroner said: "One would extend sympathy to his family, but it is clear that, while embarking on this potentially murderous crime, he was the author of his own misfortune." He recorded a verdict of accidental death.

After O'Brien's death, police found Semtex, timers, detonators and a prepared bomb at his bedsit in south London. The equipment was typical of that used by the IRA.

"It was a complete find of bomb-making equipment," Detective Superintendent William Emerton, of the Metropolitan Police's anti-terrorist branch, said. "It could have sustained a significant bombing attack on the citizens of London."

He said that as early as August 1994, O'Brien was acting as an agent of the IRA on the mainland. From October 1995, he was preparing a stockpile of Semtex, timers, detonators, guns and ammunition. He was drawing up his plans during the ceasefire and President Clinton's visit to Belfast and Dublin last November and December.

It is clear that at the time Edward O'Brien was collecting his murderous equipment and planning his criminal activities," Mr Emerton said, adding that it was duplicitous for the IRA to have planned atrocities during the ceasefire.

O'Brien died at about 10.30pm on February 19 as he stood, carrying his bomb in a sports bag, at the foot of the stairs on a number 171 bus in the Aldwych. Dr Iain West, a Home Office pathologist, said O'Brien's legs were blown off by the explosion and he suf-



Edward O'Brien had been stockpiling equipment for 18 months when he blew up himself and a London bus. Among the injured was Paris Valentine, a passenger who suffered only perforated eardrums and minor cuts. It was, said the coroner, a remarkable escape

fered "blast lung", the force of the bomb ripping his lungs to shreds. He would have died almost instantly. The explosion also injured the driver and two passengers. There had been 37 people on the bus at various times as it travelled from south London to Holborn.

Detective Superintendent Emerton said a Walther 9mm pistol, bearing O'Brien's finger-

prints, was found in the debris. A Jaguar sports bag, recovered from the dead man's flat in Lewisham, was one of two bought at the same time from Argos in Caiford, south London. The first bag had been used to conceal the bomb in the telephone kiosk in Charing Cross Road three days earlier. Warnings about the device, including one call to Buckingham Palace, were

imprecise but a diligent member of the public had found it.

Mr Emerton said O'Brien was born in Dublin and moved to Co Wexford with his family. He was once employed as a baker but had been living in London since August 1994 and was integrated into the local community, playing for a pub football team and drinking regularly at clubs and pubs. He worked full-time as a

labourer. Commander John Grieve, head of the terrorist branch, said: "I am convinced he was an active, committed, fairly experienced terrorist who had been on the mainland since at least August 1994. He had been involved in Provisional IRA activity from then and through the ceasefire."

Allen Fereday, a scientific officer at a forensic explosives laboratory, told the inquest at Westminster Coroner's Court how he had analysed the bomb-making equipment found at O'Brien's bedsit. It consisted of 15kg of Semtex explosive in four blocks; 16 one-hour timer units; four three-hour units, one incendiary device with a ten-hour timer and four electronic detonators. It was, he said, typical of the equipment used in IRA devices.

Mr Fereday said the explosion caught O'Brien at knee level, consistent with him carrying the bomb in a hold-all. There were a number of possible reasons for the premature explosion. The most likely were that the device had been incorrectly armed; poorly constructed, possibly causing a short-circuit or had a faulty mechanism.

Less likely was that the bomber had made a timing miscalculation or that he had simply stumbled. It was possible that interference from an electrical device, such as a personal stereo or a mobile telephone, had triggered the device.

The coroner praised bystanders who went to the aid of the casualties at a scene of "devastation and enormous disruption".

Paris Valentine, a solicitor who was travelling on the bus, said: "I heard a loud thud. I was listening to my Walkman then I heard a huge piercing sound going through my mind and everything became still. I felt the bus grind to a halt and I was in complete darkness with sparks of light. I was losing consciousness but willed myself to stand up and get out of the bus." He suffered a perforated eardrum and

minor cuts but was otherwise unhurt. The coroner described his escape as "quite remarkable".

Also injured was the bus driver, Bob Newitt, 49, of New Cross, London, who is deaf as a result of his injuries, and Rolf Hobart, 38, of Torquay, who suffered facial injuries. Another injured passenger, Brendan Woolhead, from Dublin, was initially a police suspect but had no connection with the explosion. He has total amnesia about what happened that night.

An off-duty policeman, PC Miles Manning, described an "almighty explosion" and what appeared to be a "bite mark" missing from the centre of the bus. "It was one of the loudest noises I have ever heard and there was an orange flash. I was thrown forwards a few yards."

He ran to help and, fearing a secondary blast, took out his warrant card and warned rescuers to stand back. A taxi driver, an American tourist and a solicitor, who had been drinking in a pub, all tried to help. They are to be cited by police for bravery awards.

The coroner said: "We have heard a story of ordinary people in London who showed their inner resources in response to such outrages."



PC Manning: feared a second explosion

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JULY 1996

THE TIMES WEDNESDAY APRIL 17 1996

9



Although a fortified settlement since the Iron Age, Dover Castle has only been in its existent form since the late 12th century. It was in 1179 when Henry II's builder, Maurice the Engineer, began the construction of the large rectangular Keep which is the magnificent centrepiece of the castle. The rough masonry walls measure between 5.2 and 6.4 metres in thickness. However, impenetrability wasn't the only prerequisite. The Keep was, after all, to be home to the King on occasion. Hence the splendid royal apartments on the upper storey. Enclosed by a mural gallery and featuring elaborately decorated window embrasures, they provide a more grandiose contrast to the rooms beneath. Even the Chapel upstairs is considerably larger and more ornate than its lower equivalent.



MANY people know that Desmond Llewelyn played the part of Q in the Bond movies. Fewer people, perhaps, are aware of the fact that Q was playing the part of one CHARLES FRASER-SMITH: the man who was the inspiration for Fleming's shrewd inventor. Based within the Clothing Department of the Ministry of Supply, Fraser-Smith appeared to be nothing more than an unremarkable civil servant. But he was actually the mastermind in one of Britain's most secret projects, his inventions playing a major part in the Second World War victory. The *Live and Let Spy* exhibition at Dover Castle takes you into the world of the secret agent. You'll see a number of Fraser-Smith's devices, like the shaving brush that carried some photographic film of German installations. The seemingly innocuous jacket button, in reality a tiny compass. And the playing card with, believe it or not, a map hidden inside it. There's even an interactive section which determines whether you've got exactly what it takes in order to become a leading secret agent.

THIS August Bank Holiday, Dover Castle sees a return to one of the most important dates in our nation's history. The eve of D-Day, 1944. Hundreds of British servicemen, German prisoners of war and military vehicles will be re-enacting the movements that were to signal the beginning of the end of the war as the allied forces prepared to land in Normandy. The command room will be functioning at full speed, dispatches will be arriving, 25lb guns will be loaded, lookout stations will be manned. It'll be just like Dover Castle was in the old days. A frightening place to be. Only this time, your chances of returning home safely, you'll be pleased to learn, are 100%.

THE Princess of Wales' Royal Regiment have had rather an eventful few centuries. Since 1572, when a Tudor company first travelled across the Channel to help the Dutch fight against Spain, they've served in the Napoleonic War, the Crimean War, the Boer War, the First World War. The list goes on. As does the number of medals they've received. 56 Victoria Crosses, no less. With the use of special effects and stunning sets, we've recreated life on board a Regiment ship. As you walk through lifelike displays, you'll get some idea of what it was like to be a marine three centuries ago. You will also experience the atmosphere of WWI trenches and see the very ball that was kicked into no-man's-land by the East Surreys.



IN THE SECOND WORLD WAR, DOVER CASTLE WAS THE SCENE OF MANY TOP SECRET OPERATIONS. THE ONE ON SAM FLETCHER'S LEFT LEG, FOR INSTANCE.

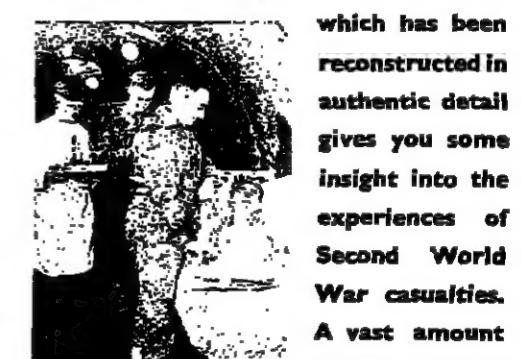


The Underground Hospital at Dover Castle.

THE oldest building on the site of Dover Castle is the *Pharos*, the ancient Roman lighthouse which dates from the first century AD. It remains one of the tallest Roman structures still standing in Europe. More recent is the Saxon church of St. Mary-in-Castro [circa 10th century] which, despite the crude nineteenth-century modernisation, remains virtually in its original state. It is also well worth visiting Queen Elizabeth's *Pocket Pistol*. Scarcely pocket sized though, it's a 7 metre sixteenth-century gun which was capable of firing a shot a distance of seven miles.



BURIED in the white cliffs of Dover, beneath the most celebrated major fortress in Britain's history, are The Secret Wartime Tunnels. Open to the public since 1990, having come off the original official secrets list four years earlier, they were home to the Underground Hospital. This hospital,



which has been reconstructed in authentic detail gives you some insight into the experiences of Second World War casualties. A vast amount of the original furnishings and equipment have been collected and reinstated. Home Front propaganda lines the walls, including the famous 'Careless Talk Costs Lives' poster. 1940's cigarette packets, old newspapers and a half-played game of draughts rest on tables. The wartime flavour is enhanced by the soundtrack which plays on your guided tour of the Tunnels. You'll hear the conversations of hospital staff and the sound of air raids and bombings. There's even that distinctive hospital smell to greet you as you enter the operating theatre, followed by the nasal 'delight' of boiled cabbage emanating from the kitchens.

IF YOU SPEND AT LEAST £1.00 PA ON GAS, WE COULD SAVE YOU MONEY!

DURING World War II, when many British women and children found refuge in London's tube stations, many British soldiers were hiding in an underground system too: The Secret Wartime Tunnels beneath Dover Castle. A maze of passages, offices and hospital dormitories which served as a military base for Churchill's troops. It was here that one Vice-Admiral Ramsay masterminded the evacuation of Dunkirk. And here that hundreds of casualties of war received the finest of medical attention. You can experience their sights, sounds and even smells at Dover Castle. To find out more information on English Heritage and our role in preserving the nation's significant buildings, please call 0171 973 3434 or visit any one of our 400 sites.

It's yours. Why not visit it.

ENGLISH HERITAGE



Ulster elections only delay choices that cannot be avoided

President Bill Clinton has turned into an increasingly supportive ally of John Major on Northern Ireland. This surfaced in an improbable way during Mr Clinton's meeting with Tony Blair at the White House last Friday. When the president said that Mr Blair had acted in a "very statesmanlike" way over Northern Ireland, he has not only given the Labour leader a public boost, but he was also being helpful to Mr Major.

Some of Mr Clinton's advisers had been concerned that Labour might seek to exploit the Government's vulnerability by allying with

the Unionists over an amendment to the Bill, published yesterday, for elections on May 30. But Mr Blair assured the president that, however much he wanted to bring down the Tories, there was no way that Labour would indulge in such wrecking tactics over Northern Ireland. Mr Clinton was relieved.

After the differences of a year ago between London and Washington over the treatment of Gerry Adams, there is now a much closer understanding over Northern Ireland. This partly follows a proposal made to Mr Clinton by Sir John Kerr, the British Ambassador in Washington, shortly after his arriv-

al last summer. He suggested that, having met Mr Adams, the president should meet all those who receive more votes than Sinn Fein in Northern Ireland elections. Mr Clinton agreed. He has accordingly met David Trimble twice and Ian Paisley once. This, coupled with advice from the American Embassy in London, has helped to change attitudes among Mr Clinton's advisers — though Vice-President Al Gore has always sought to ensure that the Unionist case is heard. The

end of the IRA ceasefire has also put some Washington supporters of Mr Adams on the defensive.

Mr Clinton was persuaded that the British suggestion of elections was a necessary step to ensure that the Unionists participate in the all-party negotiations on June 10, despite the misgivings of the Dublin Government and opposition of the SDLP. He has appealed to all parties to become involved.

Yesterday's Bill and the accompanying paper on ground rules for the talks are intended to keep open all options by offering wide reassurance. The elections will both provide delegates from whom par-

ticipants in the all-party talks can be chosen and create a deliberative forum in effect a talking shop with no real powers. The Bill provides that referendums may, with parliamentary approval, be held on any matter relating to Northern Ireland. The Government is still not persuaded of the case for a referendum on the renunciation of violence, as urged by John Hume. But the door has not been closed. Sinn Fein can, and probably will, participate in the elections, but the Government paper reiterates that their participation in negotiations "requires the unequivocal restoration of the ceasefire of August

1994". While the IRA decision on a ceasefire is the main uncertainty ahead of June 10, several other questions remain unresolved. Who, for example, will be the "independent chairperson" handling the sensitive strand two discussions on relationships within the island of Ireland? There are suggestions that Senator George Mitchell is willing to become involved again.

The familiar question of decommissioning of arms will also have to be addressed at the start of the talks. The announcement of elections masked the decision to drop the previous "Washington three" precondition that decommissioning

must start. But this only put off a decision. Everything now is aimed at getting the talks going with all parties involved. Sinn Fein will also have to decide whether it accepts the Mitchell Commission's insistence on an absolute commitment to democracy and non-violence. These choices cannot be avoided indefinitely. On June 10, or soon afterwards, the London and Dublin Governments, and the Clinton Administration, will have to face up to the incompatibility of the aims and attitudes of the main participants.

PETER RIDDELL

Mandelson tours Far East courtesy of Barclays Bank

BY ANDREW PIERCE AND PATRICIA TEHAN

BARCLAYS BANK financed a ten-day trip to South-East Asia by Peter Mandelson, one of Tony Blair's closest allies, to reassure companies in the region that their investments in Britain would be safe under New Labour.

The trip, the first the bank has organised for an individual MP, came in the same week that BZW, Barclays' investment bank, hosted a reception for the Labour leader during his visit to New York. But Mr Mandelson, MP for Hartlepool, had given a different emphasis to the trip before he went away. He told his local newspaper that he was flying east to try to generate more investment from South-East Asia in Hartlepool, where unemployment is almost twice the national average.

His explanation mystified Barclays, which is paying the estimated £6,000 bill for the trip to Japan, Korea, Hong Kong and Singapore.

A spokeswoman for Barclays, the one-time *betwixt and between* of the Labour Left because of its investment in

South Africa during the apartheid era, said: "The trip had nothing to do with Hartlepool. The only connection we have with Hartlepool is a branch in the High Street."

Before he left for South-East Asia, at the start of the Easter recess, Mr Mandelson told the *Hartlepool Mail*: "We must step up our efforts to promote the town and I am pleased to announce that during Easter I am travelling to Japan, Korea, Hong Kong and Singapore to beat the drum for investment in Hartlepool."

Far from paying Mr Mandelson's expenses to extol the virtues of Hartlepool, the bank had invited him to act as an unofficial ambassador for Tony Blair. Andrew MacThomas, Barclays head of public affairs, said in a letter to the MP that the purpose was: "To discuss trade and investment under a Labour government with particular reference to companies with direct interests in Britain."

In the letter, dated March 29, Mr MacThomas said that Barclays agreed to the visit as a number of its customers in

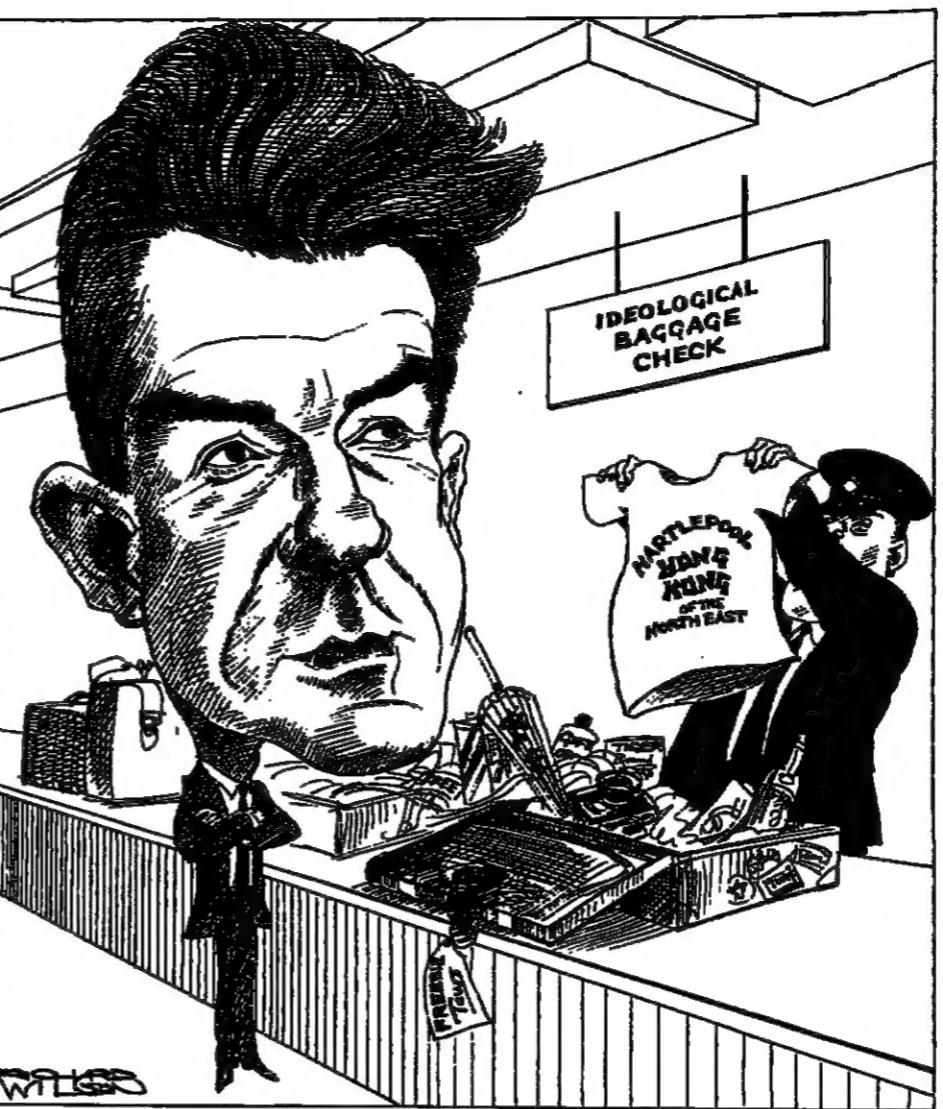
the Far East could be affected by a potential change of government in Britain.

Barclays declined to say who had issued the invitation to Mr Mandelson, whose frontbench portfolio is the Civil Service not inward investment. Last night the bank said that the visit was part of a programme of contact with politicians.

Martin Taylor, the Eton-educated chief executive of Barclays, is an acquaintance of Mr Blair. He approved the visit, which was organised by BZW. Derek Scott, a BZW economist and part-time adviser to Mr Blair, is believed to have helped to organise Mr Blair's Wall Street gathering.

Mr Mandelson flew from London to Tokyo on April 6, staying at the Imperial Hotel. He went on to Seoul on April 9, staying at the Hotel Shilla, visiting Hyundai and Daewoo. Mr Mandelson reached Hong Kong on Thursday April 11, staying at the Conrad hotel, leaving on April 14 for Singapore. He arrived back in London yesterday.

In the Register of MPs' interests Mr Mandelson declares that he is parliamentary adviser to the Association of Civil Servants. He will have to log his trip in the next register.



Labour accused of media 'sycophancy'

VIRGINIA BOTTOMLEY accused Labour of "sycophantic devotion" to large media groups yesterday after it sought to relax planned restrictions on newspapers' holdings in broadcasting companies (James Landale writes).

The Broadcasting Bill, which came up for its second reading in the Commons, would allow newspaper groups with less than 20 per cent of the national market to bid for ITV licences. The limit is designed to prevent any one group dominating the market.

However, Labour said that the figure was arbitrary and unreasonable because it

Worried Tories urge Major to talk with Goldsmith

BY PHILIP WEBSTER, POLITICAL EDITOR

SENIOR Tories urged John Major yesterday to authorise talks with Sir James Goldsmith on an agreement that would persuade him to withdraw his threat to field 600 pro-referendum candidates at the general election.

They say that unless the Government does a deal with Sir James his Referendum Party will take enough votes to make defeat certain. They want Mr Major to look sympathetically at the billion-dollar financier's call for all-party talks on a possible

referendum on Britain's relations with Europe.

Senior Tories are citing the 1,272 votes secured by the UK Independence Party in last week's Staffordshire South East by-election. They say that if that were repeated elsewhere the Tory majorities in more than 20 seats would be wiped out.

Yesterday Lord Archer of Weston-super-Mare, a former deputy party chairman and a confidant of Mr Major, became the first leading Tory to go public with a call for "dialogue" with Sir James, although he was reflecting the views of some Tory MPs worried that the Referendum Party could tip the balance against them at the election. They have been persuaded not to speak out for fear of raising the new party's profile.

Lord Archer said that the Tory party leadership should have a "dialogue" with Sir James. He told *The Times*: "In spite of the excellent deal

NHS criticised over £100m computers

A SCHEME to introduce computers in NHS hospitals to improve patient services has cost more than £100 million and failed to provide the expected benefits (Nigel Williamson writes).

A highly critical report from a public spending watchdog says that eight years after the 260 acute NHS hospitals have integrated computer systems providing up-to-the-minute information on the results of medical tests, waiting lists and other vital data. The NHS Executive had intended all hospitals to be running the system by April

1995. However, the National Audit Office found that pilot schemes had been plagued by delays and a failure to make sufficient savings. Particular problems had occurred at Nottingham, Kidderminster and Darlington hospitals.

Alan Langlands, the NHS chief executive, is certain to face tough questioning from the Public Accounts Committee over the report next month. MPs will want to know why by last year the schemes had only achieved cost savings of £3.3 million and why the NHS Executive has still not completed its own evaluation of the project.

IN PARLIAMENT

YESTERDAY in the Commons: questions to health ministers and the Prime Minister; private notice questions on AIDS test statements on 866; the Commons business; Budget Bill; Bill of Rights; Education (Student Loans) Bill; Lords' amendments; proposed widening of M1. In the Lords debate including fish stock control, environmental management, Detention Bill report.

TODAY in the Commons: backbench debates; trade and industry questions; Budget Bill; Environment Bill; Bill to cut recurring unemployment; beef crisis; Road Traffic (Amendment) Bill; committee; Disabled Persons and Careers (Short-Term Breathe) Bill; second reading.

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At a Service Near You

Ruth Gledhill, religious affairs correspondent of *The Times*, visited nearly 200 places of worship for the series in *Weekend, At your service*, and this book is a collection of 63 of those engaging articles.

Not quite the ecclesiastical equivalent of *The Good Pub Guide*, but Gledhill does assess the quality of the leadership, architecture, sermon, music, liturgy, after-service care and spiritual high at the churches she visits.

She describes the atmosphere the sort of people who attend, the style of the worship, the quality of preaching and anything that particularly strikes her, even the coffee.

As the daughter of an Anglican clergyman, Gledhill has been attending church regularly since childhood and the experience of visiting so many has had an impact on her own faith.

"I began the series as a churchgoing Anglican with fairly traditionalist views," she says. "The experience has made me more liberal in belief and more open to

evangelical styles of worship, in particular the joy and movement that comes with some of the best spiritual songs."

Ruth believes churches are more than places of worship. They are also community centres in a world where neighbourhood communities are vanishing. They provide an oasis of peace in a noisy environment. The best churches preach faith as the foundation for true healing and happiness and impart to her the sense of God's presence.

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Readers can get a copy of *At a Service Near You: British Churches - The Good, the Bad and the Ugly* for only £6.49 (normal price £7.99) including postage and packing and with an inserted book plate signed by the author.

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WEDNESDAY APRIL 17 1996
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THE TIMES WEDNESDAY APRIL 17 1996

HOME NEWS 11

Doctors give hope of breakthrough in cancer therapy

BY JEREMY LAURANCE, HEALTH CORRESPONDENT

A NEW weapon against cancer that could prove effective for many of the commonest forms of the disease has begun patient trials, scientists announced yesterday.

The treatment, based on blocking the growth of malignant cells instead of destroying them, has excited scientists who have spent 15 years developing it. It is being tested on lung cancer patients and, if successful, trials will be extended to other common cancers.

Researchers from the Imperial Cancer Research Fund described the start of tests on patients as a landmark. Professor John Smyth, director of the fund's clinical oncology unit at Western General Hospital, Edinburgh, said: "We can't avoid being excited by this. We believe the science is extremely strong and we are optimistic but we are at the first stage. We desperately need entirely new approaches

if we are to make a major difference for patients with a number of different types of cancer, particularly the common cancers."

The treatment is being used first for sufferers of small-cell lung cancer, which accounts for a quarter of all cases of lung cancer and causes nearly 10,000 deaths a year in Britain.

Professor Smyth said there had been virtually no improvement in survival after lung cancer in the past decade despite the development of treatments to improve quality of life. Chemotherapy is highly effective in eradicating the cancer cells but the disease returns in more than 90 per cent of cases and the drugs do not work second time. The new treatment would be used as a follow-up to initial chemotherapy to prevent the cancer cells re-growing.

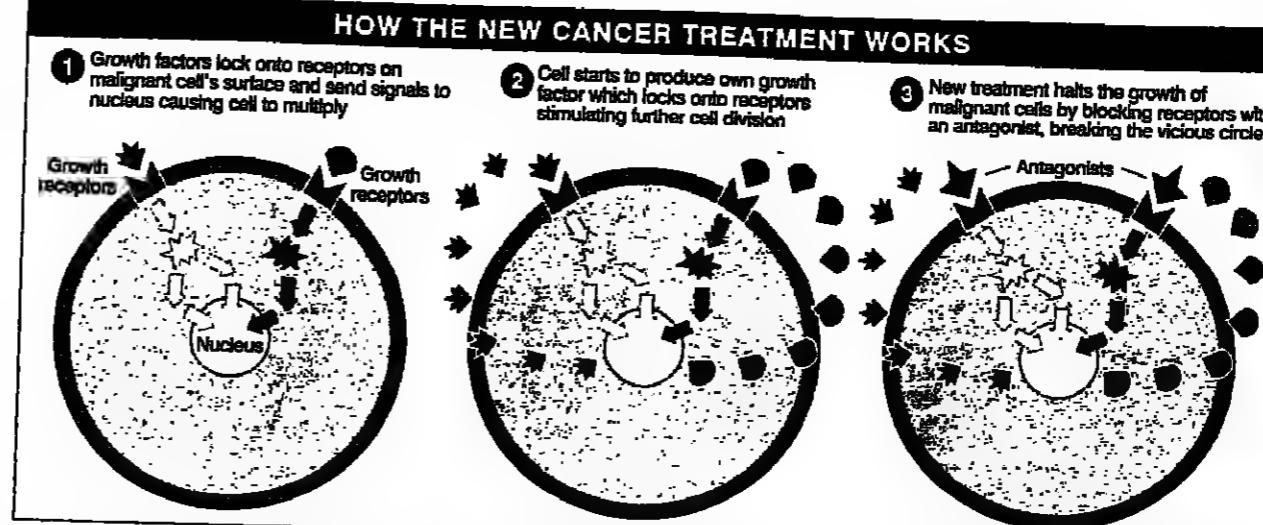
In small-cell lung cancer, the malignant cells produce hormonal growth factors called neuropeptides which cause the cells to multiply out of control. They do this by locking on to receptors on the cell's surface and sending signals to the cell nucleus.

Work led by Dr Enrique Rozengurt at the Imperial Cancer Research Fund's laboratory in London has shown that the receptors can be blocked with antagonists, which prevent the growth factors from working and stop multiplication of the cancer cells and the growth of the tumour.

Dr Rozengurt said: "We have identified a group of antagonists that can block every type of growth factor with a particular type of signal. The vicious circle is interrupted."

An important question, however, is what effect the antagonists have on healthy cells.

The first clinical trials, which began in February,



Nutritionist says Chinese food is recipe for healthy breasts

WOMEN may be able to avoid breast cancer by eating Chinese food, scientists were told yesterday.

Soy protein used in oriental cooking contains chemical compounds that appear to mimic the action of the widely used breast cancer drug Tamoxifen.

Dr Helen Wiseman, a nutritionist at King's College London, said that may be why people in Japan and China have such low rates of breast, colon and prostate cancer.

It could also explain why

people who consume large amounts of soy products have a low incidence of heart disease. Tamoxifen is also believed to prevent heart disease and osteoporosis.

Dr Wiseman suggested at a meeting of the Biochemical Society at Liverpool University that oriental food might help to protect some women against breast cancer.

Soya beans, soya milk and other soy products contain bioactive substances called isoflavonoids. Like Tamoxifen, they may stop the

female hormone oestrogen acting on the breast, where it can cause cancer.

Isoflavonoids are also potent antioxidants, which may be another reason why they protect against cancer and heart disease.

Dr Wiseman told the meeting that work has started on ways to enrich soya products to improve their health-giving properties. If all goes well women at risk of breast cancer, for example, could choose to eat these foods as a supplement to drugs.

SATURDAY
IN THE TIMES



Matthew Parris
meets
Ian McKellen

Mary Ann
Sieghart on
Gloria Steinem

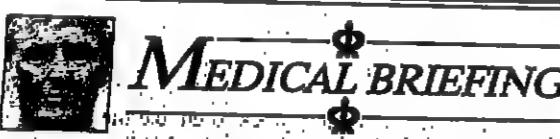
Anna Blundy
joins New
York's fact
pack

Paul Heiney on
home cooking



The Pembertons: Guy, Caroline and Simon (Hugh Dickson, Sara Coward and Peter Wingfield)

Everyday story of a superdrug



Dr Thomas Stuttaford

THE death of *The Archers'* Guy Pemberton, who owned the Ambridge estate, spoilt the weekend for listeners of the Radio 4 serial, particularly if they have had cardiovascular disease. Mr Pemberton's death was slightly unusual, as more than half of those who die from a heart attack do so within the first 48 hours. The scriptwriters were not entirely misleading, for there is an appreciable increase in mortality over the first year.

Mr Pemberton's death leaves his widow Caroline and his son Simon with unresolved difficulties, but it also calls into question Dr Richard Locke's care. Had his patient been prescribed a regular daily dose of aspirin and, if he had, was anyone checking to see if he took it? Aspirin, unless there is a sound reason against its use, is recommended for prevention of a second heart attack.

Aspirin has been a wonder drug for nearly 100 years for which new uses are constantly being discovered. Despite its proven use in the prevention of a second heart attack, a recent survey carried out by Oxford University research workers and published in *General Practitioner* shows that only one in ten general practices is correctly recommending its routine use. This could be life-saving in many cases.

One example was an 18-year-old woman darts player who usually hits the 20s with easy grace. One evening, to

the amazement of her fans, she missed and missed again. It transpired that the woman had had a transient ischaemic attack (TIA), a tiny temporary stroke caused by a blood clot temporarily blocking an artery in her brain.

Further tests demonstrated that she had an abnormal clotting tendency, characterised by a positive antiphospholipid test, a simple and cheap blood test. This form of clotting disorder can be helped by the regular prescription of aspirin which reduces the likelihood of further TIAs or even a fatal stroke.

The darts player's condition was the same as that which Dr Graham Hughes of St Thomas's Hospital treats in some women who recurrently miscarry. In these women the placenta is damaged by small clots, the developing babies and the mother miscarry. Dr Hughes's research started with women who have lupus and who are also antiphospholipid positive, as are a small sub-group of lupus sufferers. In this group the successful pregnancy rate has, with the help of aspirin, been raised from 17 to 70 per cent.

Tests for the antiphospholipid factor are also important in younger patients who have unusual clotting tendencies, whether these have been demonstrated by early strokes, heart attacks, deep-vein thromboses or even recurrent migraine.



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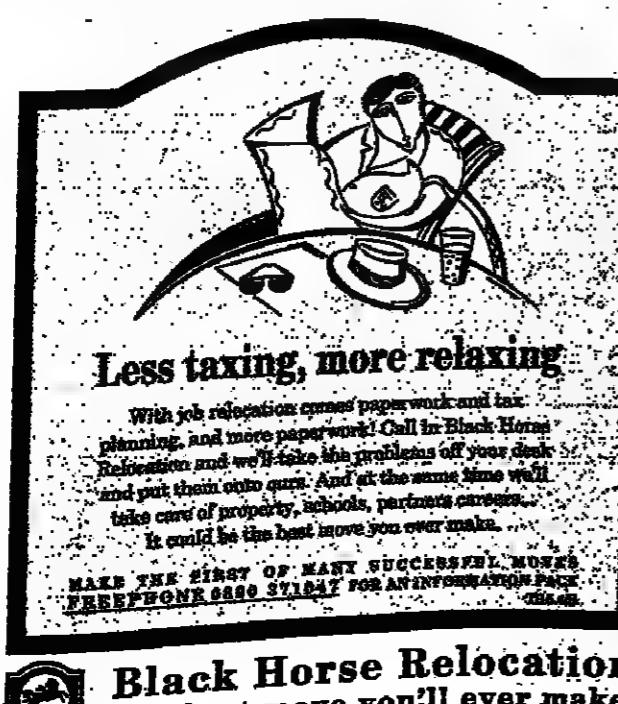
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Hogg watches as prodigal son feeds subsidy to farmers

It was on April 3, began Agriculture Minister Douglas Hogg in his Statement to the Commons yesterday, that he had last made a statement to MPs on BSE. If Mr Hogg had followed the logic implied in this opening remark, he would have dropped the remaining six pages of his Statement and sat down without further ado.

He and Stephen Dorrell, the Health Secretary, had made a series of reassuring For Commons Statements before the Easter recess, and after

each the public panic over beef had grown. A fortnight's pause in these reassurances while MPs went on holiday and public alarm had subsided. Beef sales were now climbing back to their pre-reassurance level.

That this suggests some kind of link between ministerial reassurance and public alarm did not seem to occur to the younger Hogg, who ploughed on. Leaning on two sticks in the peers' gallery, the elder Hogg, Douglas's dad Quintin, watched anxiously.

The concern of Lord Hailsham of St Marylebone was understandable. The younger Hogg was there to announce big compensation payments to farmers whose cattle would have to be slaughtered: payments that could only add the already vast level of public subsidy to agriculture.

Those of us who served in Parliament with Douglas before he realised that he might one day be Agriculture Minister remember him telling us the ruling wisdom in the

Hogger way back in the 1950s, when the elder Hogg was First Lord of the Admiralty and the younger Hogg was a spotty teenager.

They were alarmed at the level of farm subsidy so alarmed at the present Agriculture Minister used to tell us in the Smoking Room that Thanksgiving Day at the

Hogg's dinner table was dubbed by Hogg senior as subsidy Sunday.

One wonders whether Lord Hailsham, peering down at his son's grittily competent performance at the dispatch box yesterday, cast his mind back nearly 50 years to the boy's mid-century grounding in agro-scepticism and

mourned his end-century prodigality. But this was not so much a case of the prodigal son feeding the hogs as the prodigal Hogg feeding the farmers.

It proved a jolly afternoon. If one believed that morning's newspapers, the session resumed with anger at Clark Short's tax gaffe and John Major reeling in shock at a fresh blow delivered by the voters of Staffordshire SE to his premiership.

If one believed one's eyes,

however, it resumed at Prime Minister's Questions with Mr Blair prancing confidently around and laughing off barbs about tax and Ms Short, while Mr Major, relaxed and joker at the dispatch box teased Paddy Ashdown and Mr Blair about their script-writers and swapped pleasantries with Peter Brooke (C, City of London and Westminster S) about cricket. Nothing at present seems to be getting under Mr Major's skin.

But there was one oddity. John Prescott has taken to

gesticulating wildly but silently as Major and Blair trade ripostes. Blair's sallies are accompanied by triumphant "Take that!" signals from Prescott, while Major's responses get a dismissive sweep of the burly ex-seaman's arms.

Not content with his new status among the middle classes, it seems Mr Prescott may be auditioning for the role of News Bunny on *Live! TV*. Perhaps a little more work is needed on the cuddle factor.

MARC HILL



Fair deal: Tony Loud, who runs a farm with his sons Martin, left, and Richard, said the package was acceptable

Guarded welcome for BSE damages package

BY MICHAEL HORNSBY
AGRICULTURE CORRESPONDENT

THE rescue package for the beef industry announced yesterday by the Agriculture chief Minister will cost nearly £1 billion in the first year and is likely to involve the destruction of more than a million steer cattle.

Farmer Farmers last night welcomed the announcement up from Douglas Hogg as a first step towards putting the industry back on its feet after the

crisis over the possible link between "mad cow" disease and Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease, look but they were concerned of ga about the threat of further play. I culls and said many farmers are still suffering serious financial loss.

Sir David Naish, president

of the National Farmers' Union, said: "Prompt payment of the compensation and the removal of devoured carcasses from cold stores will help the industry as it attempts to meet the renewed

public demand for beef." Tony Loud, who runs a 200-cow family dairy farm near Okehampton, Devon, said: "The compensation announced by Mr Hogg for old

milking cows is acceptable. But we are very worried by his reference to possible further selective culls of animals deemed to be susceptible to BSE. We do not see any need for that at all."

James Burnett keeps 1,100 of prime beef cattle near Newark, Nottinghamshire, which are all over the age of 30 months and face destruction. "The compensation for beef farmers like me is not as bad as I feared, but I could still face a loss of up to £250,000 over a full year," he said.

About £630 million of the aid package will be spent on the slaughter and disposal of cattle over 30 months old, which are considered to be at greater risk of being infected with bovine spongiform encephalopathy.

There will be £110 million to help slaughterhouses. Some

herds immediately after birth. Nearly all these animals, up to 500,000 a year, were previously exported for the continental meat trade. They may now be made into pet food.

Rendering plants, which specialise in processing animal waste, will receive £118 million in aid. Mr Hogg said the plants had "substantial surplus capacity" and would be mainly responsible for treating and burning the waste material, offal and carcass meat that would no longer be allowed into the food chain.

According to an audit prepared for the Ministry of Agriculture by the accountant Coopers and Lybrand, 15,000 old cows and 6,000 beef animals over 30 months old will have to be slaughtered and destroyed each week, implying the destruction of about a million cattle in a year.

Old cows at the end of their productive life would have been slaughtered anyway. But instead of being turned into burgers and pies they will be destroyed. Farmers will get 80p a kilogram liveweight, averaging nearly £500 per animal, roughly the market price they would have fetched before the BSE scare.

The European Union will pay 70 per cent of the cost of this compensation. But the Government will have to pay for the disposal of the carcasses. It will also pay a top-up payment of 25p a kilogram to owners of prime beef cattle over 30 months old, which are much more valuable than old dairy cows.

There are estimated to be 300,000 prime beef cattle on farms above this age limit which cannot now go into the food chain. To clear this

backlog alone in a year, the animals would have to be slaughtered and destroyed at a rate of about 6,000 a week.

Mr Hogg said he was looking at other ways of identifying individual cattle or groups of cattle more likely than others to develop BSE that could be culled selectively in addition to those over 30 months old. But there would be no question of killing whole herds just because they had a few cases of BSE.

He said: "The models we are looking at involve limited numbers of individual animals — in the low tens of thousands and not hundreds of thousands — and do not provide for the slaughter of whole herds."

The proposals for a selective cull are due to be presented to European Union Agriculture Ministers at the end of this month. There is no chance of

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backlog alone in a year, the animals would have to be slaughtered and destroyed at a rate of about 6,000 a week.

Mr Hogg said he was still discussing with the Environment Department the best and safest way of disposing of unwanted carcasses after they had been treated by rendering plants.

A legal challenge by the British Government over Europe's beef ban would be boosted by the Farm Commissioner's admission last week that the ban was needed to shore up the European beef industry (Frances Gibb writes). Lawyers say there is no doubt that the Commission has power to impose a ban but they believe it must be done on public-health grounds.

The likelihood of success, some lawyers believe, is quite high: the grounds for legal challenge would be that the ban was disproportionate to the risk it sought to avoid. But as any legal action in the European Court of Justice in Luxembourg would be likely to take at least ten months from start to final court ruling, the chief benefit of lodging proceedings could be as a bargaining counter in any negotiations to have the ban lifted.

The families of eight people who died from Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease after treatment with a human growth hormone obtained from the pituitary glands of dead bodies launched a High Court claim yesterday for compensation. They allege that the Government and Medical Research Council were negligent in administering the treatment.

Simon Jenkins, page 18
Letters, page 19

Diners dismiss beef offal warning as 'load of tripe'

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN PARIS

FRENCH gastronomy was reeling from another cruel blow yesterday after the Institute of National Consumers (INC) warned the public not to eat beef offal as fear of "mad cow" disease continued to permeate France.

Consumption of beef has dropped sharply here since the European ban on British beef, but the latest warning is a direct threat to some of France's most celebrated delicacies.

Le bifeek Aberdeen Angus has already disappeared from French menus and, if the public heeds the latest warning, *ris de veau* (sweetbreads), *cervelles* (brains), *andouillettes* (small tripe sausage) and *anourettes* (spinal bone marrow of calf or ox) will soon follow. Given the fact that the French blame British beef for the whole sorry affair, *jote de veau anglaise* (sautéd English calf's liver), which is usually served with boiled potatoes, could be the first to go.

"We advise consumers to avoid beef offal," Marie-Jeanne Husset, Editor of the consumer journal *60 Millions*, said, adding that the advisory would remain in place until the scientific community had reached a conclusion on the possible transmission of BSE to humans.

Where the average British palate tends to balk at eating animal parts intended for thinking, digesting or excreting, virtually no organ is excluded from the French pot. Intestines, udders, liver, heart, lungs, brains and kidneys are all included in the

French definition of edible offal, or *abats*.

Last week, an English visitor to Paris ordered *museau de bœuf*, assuming it to be some particularly succulent steak. When informed that she was about to be presented with vinegared beef muzzle, she paled and abruptly changed her order.

Although the French refer to Britons as *les Rosbifs*, France is the largest consumer of beef in Europe. But even before the current crisis, French meat consumption was beginning to wane. In 1979 the average French citizen consumed 25 kilos (55lb) of meat annually, but by last year the figure had dropped to 19 kilos (42lb).

The trend has been accelerating and, since last month's beef ban, more than half of all French restaurants have reported a drop in beef orders. In Paris, restaurateurs say consumption has halved while trade at vegetarian restaurants has jumped by a third. Popular restaurant chains such as Hippopotamus, the self-proclaimed "carnivore's heaven", have started serving "vegiburgers", the sort of dish that makes most French chefs reach for the smelling salts.

With traditional French cuisine already in crisis — it is facing intense competition from sushi, pasta and fast food — the advisory recommending the avoidance of offal will be a bitter pill to swallow for the nation's chefs, many of whom save their most extravagant and inventive recipes for offal dishes. No country on Earth takes

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Dutch MPs vote to give homosexuals marriage rights

BY CHARLES BRENNER

THE Dutch parliament voted yesterday to grant homosexual partners all the legal rights and duties of married couples, a step which would put The Netherlands far ahead of any other European state in the area of gay rights.

However, the coalition government, which had earlier backed the idea of legal same-sex marriage contracts, indicated that it was having second thoughts in the light of the damage this could inflict on the country's already tarnished image as the home of legal drugs.

Elisabeth Schmitz, Social Affairs Minister, told the parliament that the Cabinet would review its vote and report on its legislative plans in several weeks. The Government is not bound to implement the motion, but a political storm is certain if it ignores parliament's wishes.

The parliament is backing a draft law under which homosexuals who register their union with the authorities would benefit from all the social security and pension rights of heterosexual spouses. For tax purposes, gay couples would benefit from married status, including the rules of inheritance of property, pension and rights over children from any previous relationship. They would also be allowed to adopt children but not those of foreign birth.

For several years Dutch town halls have allowed homosexual couples to register their unions as "partner-

ship contracts" and liberal Protestant clergy have celebrated their bond at wedding-type ceremonies. Yesterday's vote, if enacted as law, would give gay partnership much greater legal status, going beyond that of same-sex couples in Denmark, Norway and Sweden who are given limited legal recognition after "regulation".

The Government said its overall aim was to "adapt family law to the evolution of society which, as well as marriage, recognises other forms of common life". Some conservative and Catholic critics have suggested

Hawaii set to break US ban

New York: A Hawaii court in August may pave the way for legal homosexual marriage across the United States (Quentin Letts writes).

As a result of a long-running legal action by Nina Baehr and Genora Dancel, a lesbian couple, Hawaii will have to prove a "compelling interest" for its present ban on gay marriages. If the case goes against the state, homosexual weddings would probably have to be recognised throughout the United States under the Constitution's "full faith and credit" clause, which binds the various states to honour each other's procedures.

European Union officials in Brussels said they were studying the implications of the possible Dutch law. Legal marriages in any member state are recognised by all the others.

In London Stonewall, the gay rights pressure group, said last night that Britain may be forced to recognise the legality of gay marriages as a result of the Dutch move.

Mark Watson, who is in charge of "partnerships" at the group, said: "This is an amazing decision. I predict that up to 1,000 gay couples may go to Holland to take advantage of this new law, and Britain would be obliged to recognise their marital status."



Sir Peter Ustinov, actor, playwright and director, in 1987

'Citizen O' admits killing at least 40 in Ukraine villages

FROM LESIA RUDAKIEWICZ IN KIEV AND THOMAS DE WAAL IN MOSCOW

POLICE in Ukraine said yesterday that they were holding a former forestry student on suspicion of carrying out one of the worst murder sprees in recent European history.

Police said the 37-year-old man detained on Sunday evening in the town of Yavoriv, western Ukraine, had confessed to more than 40 murders across the country. The man, identified only as "Citizen O", was a native of the town of Zhilomir. He was carrying a hunting rifle that matched the murder weapon in several of the killings and had jewellery and video equipment, which may have belonged to some of his victims.

"This is the first time in Ukraine's modern history that one man has committed so many murders," Leonid Borod

dich, the First Deputy Interior Minister, said. "This is a terrible crime. It has caused Ukraine a great deal of pain." He said the detained man was "psychologically normal".

A manhunt was launched across Ukraine last month after eight families were brutally murdered in a killing spree that began at the end of last year. Most of the victims were from remote villages in the Lvov region near the border with Poland. There were so many killings in one village, Bratkovichi, that troops were sent to patrol streets and villagers kept their lights burning through the night.

The murders followed a set pattern. The murderer chose an isolated house and shot everyone inside, including the children, with a hunting rifle.

Secret Russian complex exposed

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER
IN WASHINGTON

RUSSIA has for years been secretly constructing a vast underground military complex in the southern Ural Mountains, the Clinton Administration said yesterday.

The complex is being built inside Yamantau mountain by tens of thousands of workers, covers an area the size of Washington and is served by its own railway and road. State Department spokesmen said the Administration did not know what its purpose was, but other American officials suggested it could be anything from a nuclear command centre to a weapons production plant.

The project was started in the early 1980s or earlier, when the Cold War was at its peak, and has for years been monitored by American spy satellites. However, its disclosure by *The New York Times* just before President Clinton meets President Yeltsin in Moscow this weekend will embarrass both Governments.

Russia has been complain-

Cold War's end brings land bonus for civilians

BY MICHAEL EVANS
DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

MORE than 8,000 military sites covering a million hectares will have been handed over to civilian use around the world by the turn of the century, according to research published yesterday.

The global trend in base closures since the end of the Cold War, following decades of an uninterrupted arms race, is highlighted in a book by the

Bonn International Centre of Conversion, an independent research institute.

The majority of the closures have taken place in Europe and the United States. The US has shut down more than 40 per cent of its foreign bases, resulting in the return of about 1,000 sites, mostly in Europe but also in Panama, the Philippines and Bermuda.

Germany has been the country most severely affected. Seven countries had main-

tained permanent bases in former East and West Germany and more than 1.3 million soldiers had guarded the border, which disappeared at reunification in 1990.

Since then more than 4,000 sites occupying 328,000 hectares, or almost 1 per cent of German territory, have been closed. According to the research, *Conversion Survey 1996: Global Disarmament, Demilitarisation and Demobilisation*, the US has with-

drawn 180,000 troops and laid off 4,000 German civilians.

Britain has closed or reduced 330 sites in Germany and returned more than 4,750 hectares of land. France closed or reduced 230 sites. Belgium 120 sites. The Netherlands 20 sites and Canada five sites.

Russia's withdrawal of half a million soldiers from Central and East Europe caused comparatively little economic impact because they lived in closed communities.

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ing that it lacks the money to implement recent arms reduction treaties, and it receives millions of dollars annually to help with the dismantling of its nuclear arsenal on condition that all new military projects are strictly defensive.

A State Department spokesman insisted that the United States had no evidence to suggest the complex violated that condition, but he admitted the Russians had foiled off previous American attempts to discover what it was by saying it had "nothing to do with arms control agreements or disarmament and is none of your business". He acknowledged that Mr Clinton would probably be forced by yesterday's disclosure to review the issue this weekend.

"We can't say with confidence what the purpose is, and the Russians are not very interested in having us go in there," another official said.

Mr Clinton and other members of the world's G7 leading industrialised countries are meeting in Moscow this weekend to discuss ways to combat black-market trafficking in nuclear materials.

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US makes progress in forging Lebanon truce

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN JERUSALEM

INTENSE negotiations spearheaded by America made progress yesterday towards drawing up an agreement to halt the week-old Israeli offensive in Lebanon, cement a long-term deal that could halt the fit-for-fit attacks across Israel's northern border, and facilitate peace talks between Israel and Syria.

As Israel's ground and air barrage against alleged terrorist targets inside Lebanon continued, Shimon Peres, the Israeli Prime Minister, was shown a draft of the document and a senior Israeli source expressed confidence that the deal would be completed within a few days. However, Operation Grapes of Wrath would continue "to make sure that the message gets through that attacking us, now or in the future, will be an action that will always hurt and exact a heavy price", the source said.

The Washington-brokered plan stipulates that:

- Lebanon guarantees the security of residents of settlements in northern Israel.
- Rocket attacks on northern Israel stop.
- Guerrilla attacks against soldiers inside Israel's self-proclaimed security zone in south Lebanon halt in return

for an Israeli declaration that it will pull out of the south if there are no guerrilla attacks for nine months.

□ Syria guarantees the agreement and sets up a mechanism to implement it.

There was a two-minute lull at 10am in the offensive as sirens sounded throughout the Jewish state for a silence to remember the six million victims of the Holocaust.

Senior figures in the Israeli defence establishment have been arguing with Mr Peres

to drive home the message that any organisation assist-

ing the Iranian-backed Hezbollah would be held accountable despite the 1993 peace deal with the Palestinians.

Mr Peres is having to balance the improvement in his standing with Israeli voters resulting from the new Lebanon offensive with American displeasure if it was to continue for too long.

"The Americans are the only diplomatic game in town," one Israeli official said.

Israel is hopeful that, by

The operation continues, to make sure the message gets through that attacking us will always hurt

that any premature ending of the present offensive would be unwise.

According to commentators, Mr Peres is having to balance the improvement in his standing with Israeli voters resulting from the new Lebanon offensive with American displeasure if it was to continue for too long.

"The Americans are the only diplomatic game in town," one Israeli official said.

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"The Americans are the only diplomatic game in town," one Israeli official said.

Israel is hopeful that, by

Rockets reopen religious rift

FROM MICHAEL THEODOULOU IN BEIRUT

IT TOOK just seconds to cause millions of pounds of destruction and plunge Beirut into darkness. "Two Israeli jets came in low and fired six rockets into the power station," said Philippe Hadar, 40, a Maronite Christian labourer who watched the attack from his flat.

"There was a huge noise, the earth shook, and they were gone." Grim-faced, he added: "We can thank Hezbollah for this."

As he spoke, despondent officials picked through the wreckage of the Bsalem substation in the pine-clad hills five miles northeast of the capital, the air still pungent with the smell of smouldering rubber. Twisted pylons dangled from a web of torn cables over shattered concrete supports. An old sign on the

broken perimeter wall read: "Entry Forbidden: Danger Of Death."

For the Lebanese Government, Israel is doing more than just overburdening it with several thousand displaced people. The humanitarian crisis was set to intensify as Israeli radio warned that the army might include the refugee-swollen city of Sidon in its attack zone after airstrikes were carried out there yesterday on the basis of a radical Palestinian group.

The Lebanese Government is convinced Israel is trying to blackmail it into curbing Hezbollah in two other ways. First, by targeting Lebanon's infrastructure, just as the Government is spending billions on reconstruction after the devastation of the coun-

try's 15-year civil war. Three power substations have been hit, and Beirut airport, the country's window on the world, has been in the line of fire.

Second, and even more alarming, government officials believe Israel is trying to tear open the old sectarian wounds of the civil war.

The Bsalem substation is in Lebanon's Christian heartland. Here, unlike the impoverished Shia refugees from southern Lebanon, few regarded Hezbollah as courageous freedom fighters. The organisation's austere way of life and radical values are alien to the Francophile Christians.

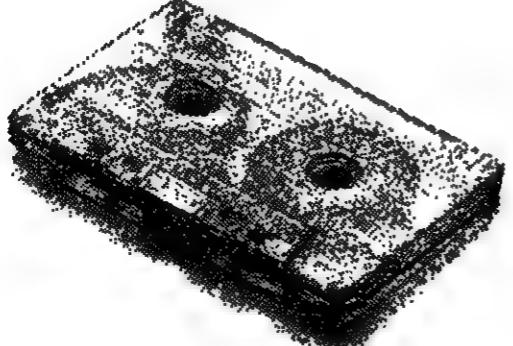
"Hezbollah's resistance to Israel is futile. They should stop the rocket attacks at once," said Mary Khouri, 26,

a smartly dressed mother of two. "It's us who are suffering now. It's our children without electricity, us without televisions or washing machines. The crazies of God [Hezbollah] want to die anyway."

At the end of Lebanon's prolonged civil conflict, which all Lebanese are trying desperately to put behind them, the Christians turned on each other with demoralising brutality. Since the latest hostilities with Israel, Mrs Khouri has not crossed into mainly Muslim west Beirut.

Such action dismays the Government which has tried hard to forge a new nation from the ashes of civil war. A senior Lebanese official accused Israel of "trying to create new ethnic hatreds among the younger generation."

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Presidents Clinton and Kim Young Sam of South Korea on their way to a press conference yesterday after talks about tension in the Korean peninsula

North Korea rejects American peace call

By MICHAEL EVANS
DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

A PEACE initiative announced yesterday during President Clinton's visit to South Korea was immediately rejected by a senior North Korean official, increasing speculation about Pyongyang's intentions towards its southern neighbour.

After three incursions across the border by North Korean forces this month,

there are fears that Pyongyang may be considering a more ambitious military operation which would undermine all efforts to forge lasting peaceful relations between the two Koreas.

Mr Clinton and President Kim Young Sam of South Korea invited North Korea and China to join talks aimed at securing a permanent peace on the Korean peninsula. However, their peace initiative, unveiled on the South Korean resort

island of Cheju, immediately ran into trouble, when North Korea's Ambassador to Moscow dismissed it and Russia also insisted on a role. Mr Clinton said the talks could begin immediately and without conditions. He ruled out bilateral talks with Pyongyang.

Western intelligence services, attempting to predict North Korea's next moves, have not ruled out Pyongyang mounting a series of infiltrations.

Blast adds weight to ambitions of Imran

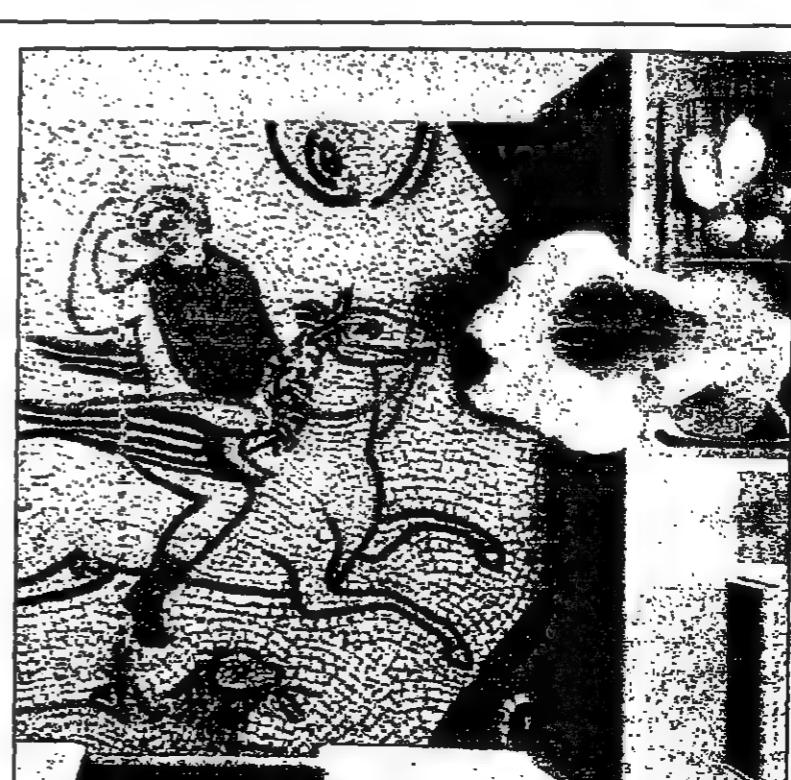
FROM CHRISTOPHER THOMAS
IN LAHORE

THE bomb that wrecked part of the Lahore hospital founded by Imran Khan has enhanced the former Pakistan cricketer's standing in a country that adores him. His enemies miscalculated. His impending attempt to become Prime Minister, probably on a platform of Islamic conservatism, is both certain and viable.

The explosion demonstrates how serious a threat he is perceived to be. He seemed a misfit in his country before reinventing himself in the past year and "King Khan", as he is known, has emerged as a symbol of hope for a nation gripped by drugs, poverty, amoral politics and virtual civil war. Discredited establishment politicians have good reason to fear a man of such impeccable record and mass appeal. Hence the bomb.

He criticises politicians of all parties, which is well received at the grassroots but it has created enemies for him. "They are corrupt to the core," he tells crowds. "They have devoured the wealth of this nation, yet they thirst for more. Hang me from the Minar-i-Pakistan if you find that I have embezzled any money from the hospital."

For more than a year he has been talking politics while denying political ambitions, but people are used to his inconsistencies. The party he is about to form will principally target Benazir Bhutto, the Prime Minister, a feudal landlord for whom he has ill-disguised contempt.



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A guide to
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Flattering backdrop to Clinton star role

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER
IN WASHINGTON

HAD it not been election year in America, President Clinton and South Korea's President Kim Young Sam might have been pictured around some dreary Seoul conference table.

As it was, their meeting took place on Monday on the more picturesque island of Cheju where they posed before a brilliant yellow mustard field offset by an American flag.

It was an image Americans will remember long after they have forgotten what the meeting was about. It cast Mr Clinton in a flattering light - calm, statesmanlike. Mark it down as another triumph for the half-dozen White House "lead advance people" whose job is to search out visually arresting sites for presidential photo-opportunities.

It was they who had Mr Clinton and President Yeltsin gazing across the Hudson river at glorious autumn foliage when they met last October. It was they who had the shrubbery cut back so Bill 'n' Boris could be photographed on a headland above the Pacific during their 1993 Vancouver summit. "We dream, and other people rein us in," says Josh King, Mr Clinton's grandly named Director of Production for Presidential Events.

Last month, when Mr Clinton attended an international anti-terrorism summit in Singapore, he took Mort Engelberg, a Hollywood producer. His shots of the President as world leader will doubtless resurface in campaign commercials this autumn.

Foreign travel gives Mr Clinton an enormous advantage over Bob Dole, his Republican opponent. It enables him to look thoroughly presidential as he mingles with other leaders. Mr Dole spent Monday campaigning in Pennsylvania, where he was pictured drinking a chocolate milkshake.

President Clinton arrived in Japan last night for talks designed to bind the two nations more closely in an effective strategy for the maintenance of stability in the Far East. Mr Clinton had to demonstrate that he is fighting hard for American access to Japan's closed markets.

English suffice Quebec

Foto
TOKEN

e avoided

THE TIMES WEDNESDAY APRIL 17 1996

OVERSEAS NEWS 15

English-speakers suffer wrath of Quebec militants

FROM QUENTIN LETTS IN NEW YORK

ENGLISH-SPEAKERS

Montreal have been harried, fined and, in a handful of cases, threatened with death by militant French-speakers.

Six months after the referendum on the sovereignty of Quebec, in which the French-backed independence movement narrowly failed to achieve "50 per cent plus one", there is unease among anglophones in the province's main city. Hospital closures and job losses have fuelled suspicions of anti-English prejudice among local bureaucrats.

A shadowy francophone organisation, the Mouvement de Libération du Québec, has blacklisted 22 companies it considers pro-English. Anonymous letters carrying a picture of an armed French revolutionary have been sent to some senior anglophone businessmen. A second list, of "enemies of the people", include the leaders of the anglophone Equality Party.

The Mouvement also published the home telephone number of an English-speaking black cartoonist who lampooned francophone leaders. The surname of the cartoonist is Bonaparte. Some of the francophone toughs who telephoned him not only accused him of being a racist but also threatened to kill him.

Keith Henderson, leader of the Equality Party, has had

the same experience. He answered his telephone at home one night to be told, by a gruff French voice, that "military means should be used to expunge your people from Quebec soil". Another advocate for anglophone rights, Brent Tyler, has had "up to four death threats, all made late at night", and a francophone lawyer who has shared a platform with Mr Tyler has been ostracised by his family.

Until now the aggression has been on the fringes, but the Office de la Langue Française, the "language police", clumsily cranked up tensions when its agents seized Passover supplies this month. The special cake mixes, biscuits and sweets, made in New York, did not have bilingual wrappings and were therefore illegal. One prominent Jew, Mark Kotler, said: "No one apologised for the raid. This was anti-Semitic."

English-speaking people are leaving the province. The English-language population of Quebec dropped from 789,185 in 1971 to 626,600 in 1991, and hearsay evidence suggests that the thrust for an independent Quebec has led others to leave this attractive city. It remains a pretty place to visit, but an ugliness dwells beneath the surface. Laurie Heitner, a frail old English-speaker, said she was becoming



The singer Madonna and Carlos Leon, the Cuban-born fitness club manager who is the father of her child

Madonna with child

FROM GILES WHITTELL
IN LOS ANGELES

UNLIKE a virgin, the singer Madonna, 37, has completed her metamorphosis from sex symbol to earth mother. She is four months pregnant and "deliriously happy", her publicist confirms.

As famous nowadays for sexual candour as for her pop songs, Madonna — full name Madonna Louise Ciccone — announced her pregnancy in Budapest, where she is filming Alan Parker's version of the musical *Evita*.

The father of her child will be Carlos Leon, 29, a Cuban-born New York fitness club manager whom she met 18 months ago while jogging in Manhattan's Central Park. Madonna, who was married for four years to actor Sean Penn, and Mr Leon are equally delighted at the prospect, according to the singer's public relations team.

"Madonna doesn't want this to be a big deal, but I don't know how she thinks it won't be a big deal," Liz Rosenberg, her chief spokeswoman, told New York columnist Liz Smith.



Actress Patsy Kensit with Oasis singer Liam Gallagher

Oasis tour bogs down

FROM GILES WHITTELL IN LOS ANGELES

THE American tour by Oasis, the British pop phenomenon, was in chaos yesterday after the lead guitarist was struck down by tonsillitis, forcing the cancellation of two concerts.

Thousands of fans of the band, touted as Britain's most exciting pop export since The Beatles, were disappointed when Oasis cancelled its Los Angeles concert barely two hours before it was due to start on Monday. Yesterday's concert in Phoenix, Arizona, was also cancelled, while to-

night's in Denver was at the mercy of guitarist Noel Gallagher's doctors.

The impression of a tour collapsing under the pressures of band members' personal problems was strengthened when actress Patsy Kensit, girlfriend of the lead singer, Liam, abruptly left the group to fly home to London. Ms Kensit, who is pregnant, shouted angrily at a photographer at Los Angeles airport before flying home alone. Her relationship reportedly had turned stormy.

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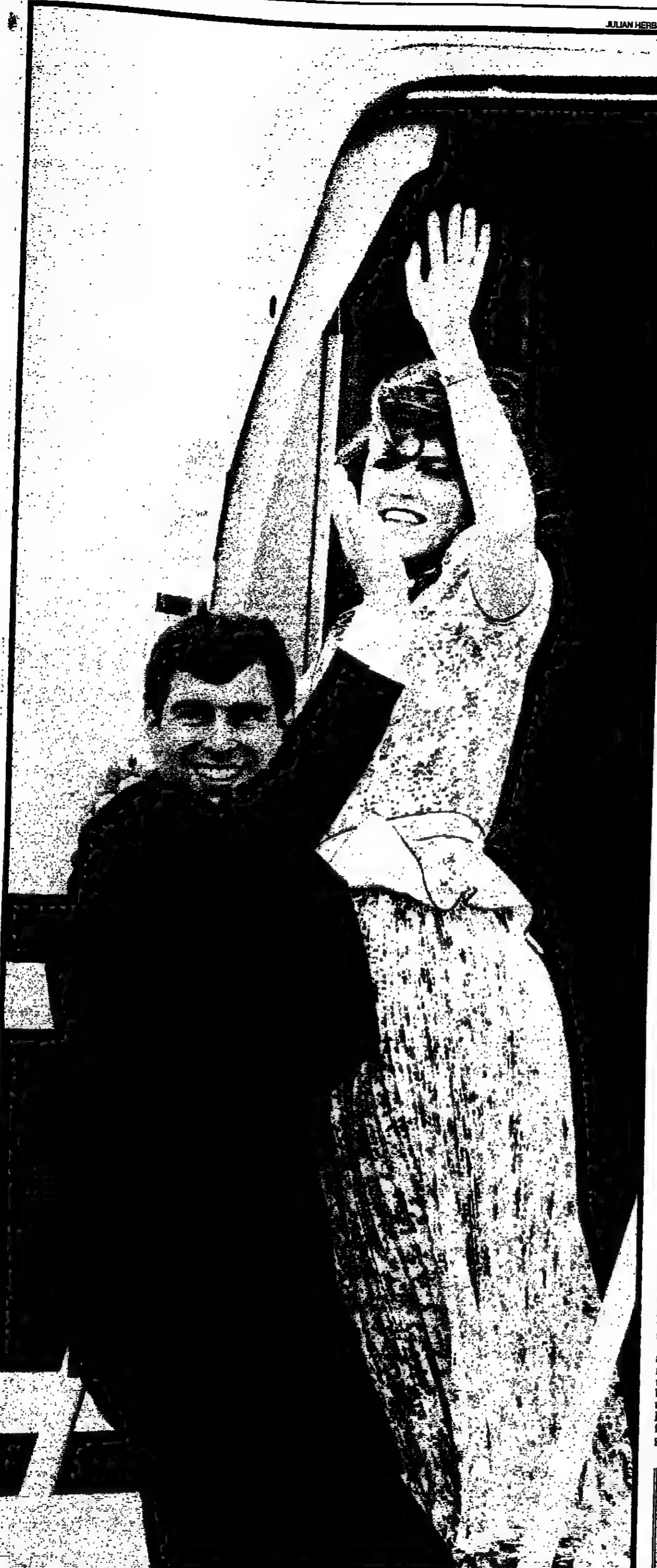
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STYLIC 1996



Before the dream turned sour: the Duke and Duchess boarding a plane at Heathrow to leave for their honeymoon

JULIAN HERBERT

Royalty, pain and the final farewell

The divorce of the Duke and Duchess of York has once again put the Royal Family back on a soap opera footing

NOW that the Church of England is considering offering services to help divorcees mark the end of their marriage, it must be presumed that divorce, even the divorce of a member of the Royal Family, has lost its power to shock.

I do not say that divorce has lost its power to hurt; one would have faerieously to sweep aside the anxieties and possible sufferings of children. But these are private concerns. The questions are: is the divorce of the Duke and Duchess of York a public concern? Should it be?

The answer will be no. Very few of us are untaut by an appetite for gossip, but that is not quite the same thing. But it does not and cannot matter to us whether Andrew and Fergie are joined or torn asunder. And it makes no difference constitutionally. Frankly, after the litany of disasters that constitute the Royal Family, one is too punch-drunk to muster much of a response. There have been too many gory details to read about over the past few years for one tidy little amputation now to raise many eyebrows.

The shock, anyway, came when the Yorks announced their separation. Their union had always been so publicly physical. During their engagement and in the early days of their marriage, they made it clear, obvious you could say, that they couldn't take their hands off one another. Of course, it may be that one should always be suspicious of those who make demonstrations of affection in public, but it seems that the closeness was genuine. Sex may not be everything, as we are constantly told these days, but it's not nothing, either. Marriages that fail are normally marriages which have founded sexually.

From the outside, the Prince and Princess of Wales's marriage always looked like a cold union: their separation may have shocked more as a constitutional matter, but on a basic, human or emotional level, the failure of the Yorks' marriage gave more of a jolt.

Even so, everything is sus-

ceptible to the law of diminishing returns. With each new instalment of the not so merry wives of Windsor, we are a little less shocked. The announcement of the Yorks' divorce comes so swiftly upon the story that they had an open marriage, and would continue to sleep with whomsoever they chose but also with one another, that it is hard not to deduce that there came an order from on high. In short, the divorce is an attempt at damage limitation.

Is it too late for all that? It is hard not to conclude that enough damage has been done, that nothing anyone could do now could stop the rot. And yet, such talk would be rather beside the point. The Queen must surely be dismayed to have the monarchy held up to ridicule and to have her family lampooned. She must be irked that her children and their spouses have between them brought, as it were, the game into disrepute. But whatever she does, however badly her children behave, is in fact of no consequence. It is important to remember that.

By which, I don't mean that the behaviour of the Royal Family might not appear to have ramifications, or that we might not have an opinion on it. But the point about our monarchy is that it exists and will continue to exist, regardless of how well or badly members of the royal family behave. It doesn't take a particularly good historian to see that it has survived jolts rather worse than a few infidelities and divorces. Story after story is printed about the rising unpopularity of the Royal Family, but the Royal Family doesn't depend on popularity for its existence. That's the whole point of it.

Similarly, there is no point ever asking — as countless polls do — whether we think the Prince of Wales would make a good King or not. Whatever we think is immaterial.

These days, it

doesn't do to look as if you scorn popular opinion. So I can see that the Royal Family must appear to pay lip service to it. But it cannot be more than that. Who marries whom, who divorces whom: none of this is to the point. If you believe in blue blood, then what does it matter in whose veins it flows? Much is spoken aboutincipient republicanism in this country. Why, it is said tremulously, the tabloids are just waiting for an excuse to get rid of the Royal Family. Quite

apart from the fact that it is hard to deduce exactly what anyone means by this — a palace coup by green-shaded editors and their lack-accomplices, perhaps — it seems unbelievable that there will ever be much pressure for the tabloids to destroy their chief source of copy. But again, we get back to the point: the outrage, real or more often feigned, provoked by the behaviour or marital history of members of the Royal Family

will really damage the Royal Family is unlikely. The Princess of Wales's evidence so far hardly puts the family in a good light, but while the adverse publicity may be distasteful to them, it cannot injure the monarchy.

A devout republican cannot be convinced that we should have a monarchy however fine and upstanding individual members of the Royal Family might prove them themselves to be, anymore than a monarchist would wish to overthrow the Royal Family on account of the bad behaviour of any of its number.

Those loyal to the crown might, it is true, wish for the Royal Family to behave better in the first place, but that is only because they would wish to maintain the fiction of its superiority. But even so, they know it is not really to do with that.

Besides, with getting on for half the married population due to divorce, it would seem strange to view the dissolution of a marriage as an evil which must on no account happen. One could indeed view this announcement of the Yorks' divorce as a concession to modern values, rather than a shock to the system. Upper-class philandering is not tolerated in the way

it was in Edward VII's time: these days the middle classes want divorce and so this is what they must have.

This may, then, be a purely cynical exercise. We can have no inkling as to whether the Duke and Duchess of York themselves wish it, nor can speculation make us any the wiser. Like most gestures of course, it is, as the cliché goes, an empty one. But I think it was ever apparent that if there had to be a sacrifice, it was always going to be poor Fergie.

Nigella Lawson

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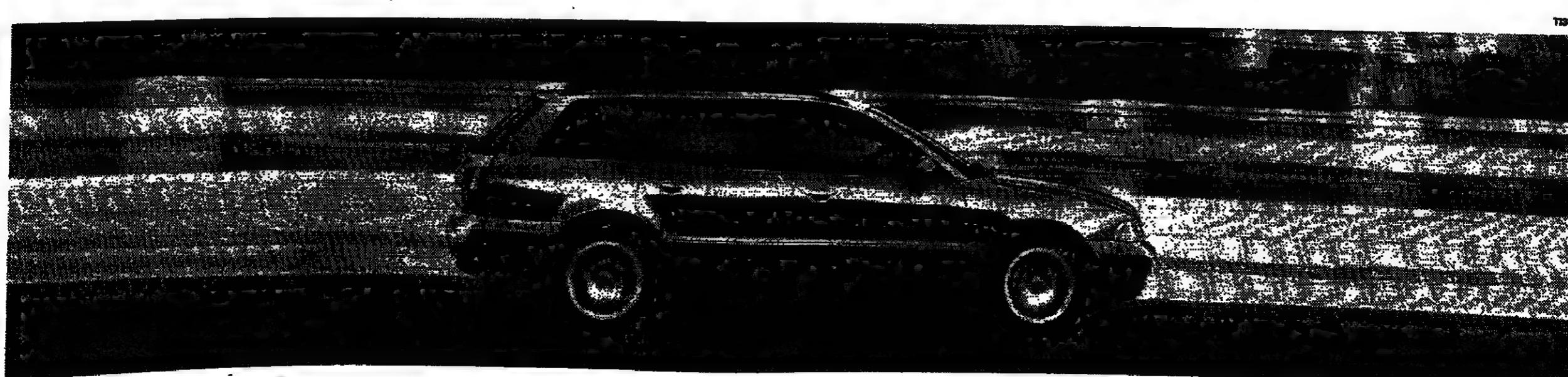
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AUDI 

Alan Coren



■ This month's new tax regulations are a load of rubbish

Here endeth the first week of the rest of my life. It endeth badly, and it bode worse: because the here it endeth at is beside the midnight dustbin, whence I can see stretched out before me enough bedding to last until that moment when my life has no rest left. This because what is literally stretched out before me, spread from the bin, ill-met by moonlight, is the domestic detritus of that first week. And, since you ask, the reason I have one hand inside this chicken carcass while the other is shaking old tea-bags onto the path is because Sunday night is when I do my accounts, I did not always do them in the dustbin, mind. I used to do them in the study, scribbling from memory into a little red book with a large Bell's in the fist currently upon the chicken, but that was in the blissful days before the first week of the rest of my life.

For it was also the first week of the rest of the Inland Revenue's life: the week it launched new tax obligations on the self-employed, obliging them henceforth to employ themselves primarily in the collection of every scrap of paper bearing upon their fiscal lives. Be they never so scrappy, these now have to be produced whenever the taxman decrees, they must be the originals, and they must be kept for six years on pain of a £3,000 fine per annum, for non-production. I cannot, any longer, scribble "To purchase of Who's Who, £95" in my little red book in the sure and certain knowledge that, come next April, my kindly taxman will reimburse me 40 per cent for this essential professional handmaiden. I now have to show him the Waterstone bill which could well be inside this chicken, hang on, no, it isn't time to spread those old coffee grounds about a bit, but if that's where it is it'll be browned to illegibility by now, eliciting nothing from HM Inspector save an invitation to pull this one, never mind £3,000 for making an unsubstantiated claim.

I know I had the bill when I came out of the show on Wednesday, but all is a blank thereafter. I may have chewed it up on the bus, I have done that all my life with tickets, stared out of the window, chewed; this has not so far stopped me from claiming business travelling expenses, but it will now, it is goodbye staring and chewing. Her Majesty wants to see the tickets, chop-chop.

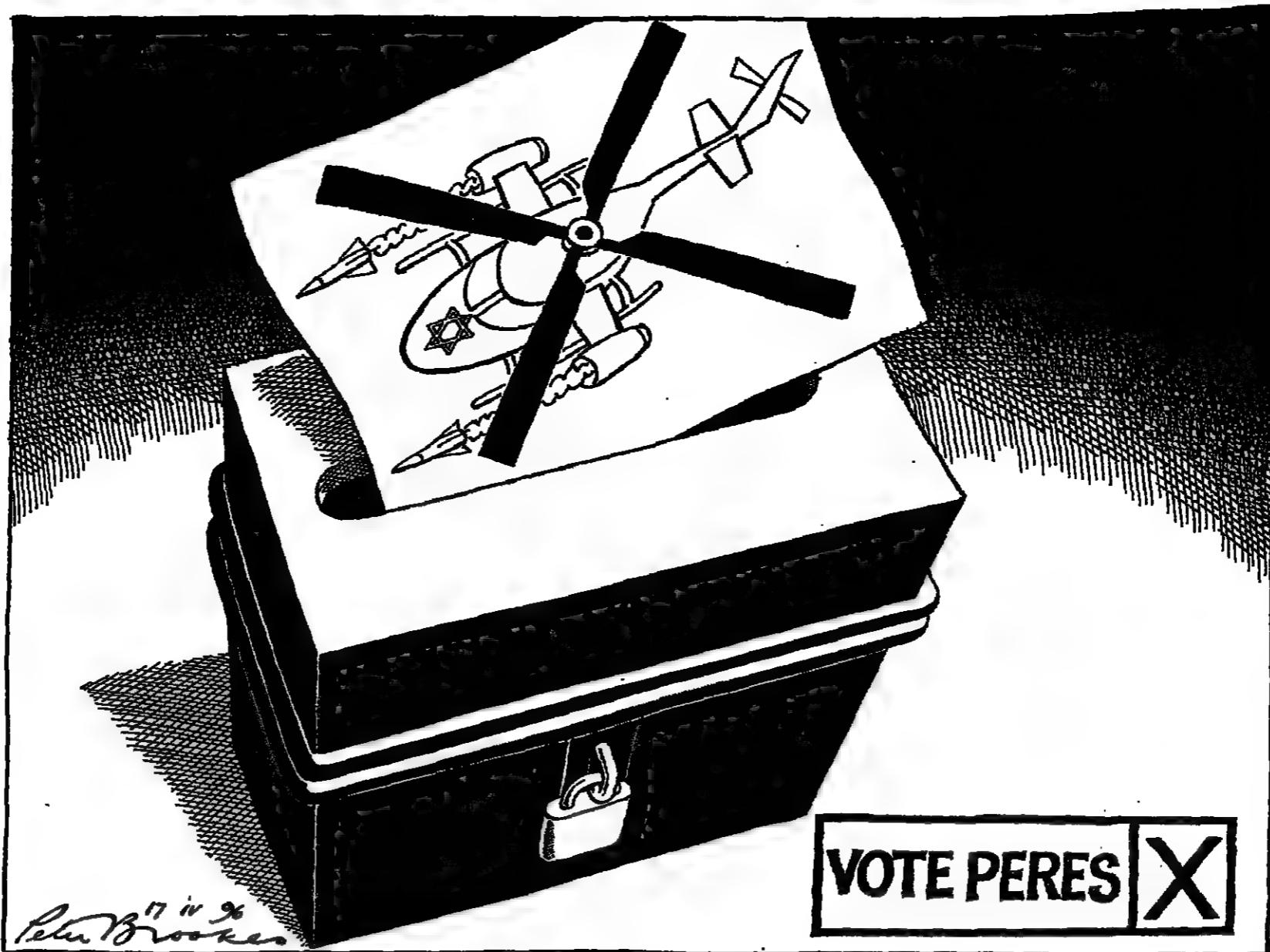
So did I, then, go to the Waterstone bill as a main course, as I once followed an Awayday with a tasty dry-cleaning ticket, and the man said, trousers, what trousers?

There's a different problem with Monday's newsgentle bill. I went in to buy two box files, one to be neatly labelled "Outgoing", one "Incoming", for all my nice new paperwork, and I was going to make the bill for this professional outgoing the first to be punched and filed, until I looked at it and saw that it had not itemised two non-professional Mars bars and a carton of Silk Cut. It was just a globalised till receipt. I cannot file that, the Inspector would be on it like a ferret, "£38.00 for box files, but for yesterday, sunshine, take him down!"

And I shall have to read all junk mail, now, I gather that, among all the air miles, free T-shirts, cut-price pot-holing breaks, prize socket-sets, etc, the building society, AA, BT, or whatever, often pops in a statement. You have to have these, now, or you get slung in pokey.

I took a cab to the BBC on Tuesday, and, unprecedentedly, asked the driver for a receipt, whereupon he in his turn asked me to do him a favour, and drove off. I may have to give up cabs. And plumbers: the reason this chicken carcass is still whole is that the waste disposal is on the triz. I am waiting for the plumber, cash, no receipt, but I still used to jock such items in the little red book. I got 10 per cent against household expenses. Try it now and the taxman could well contact the plumber for documentary corroboration, and the plumber would be round to my premises like a shot. A big man, never without a heavy spanner.

There's always the chance the Waterstone bill was in my shirt pocket. Something was, before it was a little soggy ball stuck in the washing machine filter. Might have been my bank statement, though; I remember thinking, it's an offence not to file these, I'll put it somewhere safe. Hitherto, of course, inside a chicken would have been as good a place as any. But not now. Now is the rest of my life.



Beef, butchery and Kafka

At last we have a hero in the great beef saga. He is that yeoman of the carvery, that Falstaff of the shires, the British beef-eater. To hell with the headlines, he has said. To hell with a "million deaths" and "worse than AIDS", with equivocating ministers and squirmish Eurocrats. To hell with the politics of unreason. Read the small print, says our hero. The risk in eating British beef is trivial. At the last count, sales of beef in the shops were at 85 per cent of the pre-scare levels and sales of steak and joints are actually up.

Over Easter I was reckless. I took my life in my hands and visited a farm. Many urban readers of this newspaper will be unaware of the fury of cattle farmers at what they see as the crass idiocy of the public debate on BSE. Almost every meadow in the West Country is planted with a placard, begging passers-by not to be deceived by publicity and pleading for the lives of its cows. I find it unimaginable that any London policymaker could have contemplated incinerating every cow in every field on every farm in Britain, and for so febrile a reason as to "restore public confidence".

Yesterday the Agriculture Minister, Douglas Hogg, promised the beef industry a cool £200 million in compensation for recent market disturbances. He all but nationalised the slaughterhouse industry with £110 million to save firms from bankruptcy. This is the sort of bailing out of overcapacity that Tories used to excoriate Labour governments for. I cannot see any justification for this money. But then I cannot see any reason for denying British beef access to markets, nor for a policy of slaughter (which is said to be imminent), and I see absolutely none for compensating farmers or renderers with public money.

This industry took a calculated risk, widely acknowledged, in feeding offal tissue to cows. If farmers feel cheated by a supplier, they should do what other businesses do and sue. Farmers are not benefits claimants: not yet. Their incomes rose last year faster than any other occupation group — except perhaps utility executives. Milk quotas are ludicrously valuable. If an inspector closes a hotel or refuses a planning application or finds that a motor car has a faulty component, the victim does not run blubbing to the Government for money. He goes bankrupt. Why is the Treasury such a soft touch for farmers?

Mr Hogg said there was no case for a mass cull of cattle. He was thinking in

terms of "tens of thousands", but only provided the European Union lifts its ban. Again compensation will be paid. But the BSE epidemic is declining fast. Any leakage into the food chain, if there has been one, took place in the 1980s. There is no basis in science or statistics or common sense for a cull. Since there is no rational basis for one, there is no basis for spending public money compensating farmers for one, wherever the money comes from. Governments should not use tax revenues as *ex gratia* payments to remove the risk from capitalism, let alone to induce foreign governments to honour their treaty obligations.

As for Europe, I am mystified at the Government's spinelessness. The instant ban on British beef imports to the Continent a month ago appeared to be justified by the European Farm Commissioner, Franz Fischler, on grounds of safety. Now he says it was public relations, "to restore market confidence". In other words, he opened his newspaper one morning, ready (or misread) the scare comments of some scientist and feels he should act dramatically.

What is significant is that he felt under no obligation to allay the scare, but sought rather to legitimise it. The British Government was unwise to politicise the shift in scientific evidence announced by the BSE standing committee last month, a shift which came with advice that no change in policy was needed. The response from Brussels was to fall on this shift and have a fit of hysteria. A full Commission was summoned, followed by a meeting of the august Council of Ministers. Continental Europe went into its most gleeful mode, that of raging Anglophobia. It appeared to be willing to sacrifice the biggest systematic slaughter of living creatures in British history: of the nation's 12 million cows.

I could sense the *Schadenfreude*

running through the French, German and Belgian Governments as each leapt into action to appease its gloating beef lobbies by banning British imports. French customs officials turned back trucks at Calais. The Germans, with more Creutzfeld-Jakob disease cases than Britain, went berserk. The bans were blatant constraints on free trade, without legal justification. Seeking to alter market confidence — indeed distorting it by exaggerating risk — is no justification for a trade ban. The 30 per cent of British beef sales that go for export were stopped.

I hate generalised trade sanctions, but

I have no doubt what Britain should have done next. After protests in the Council of Ministers had failed, the Cabinet should have retaliated by banning imports of continental beef. These happen to comprise 30 per cent of domestic consumption. That would have balanced the market and raised the negotiating ante.

Instead, Britain is in the hopeless position of not knowing how many healthy cattle it has to kill to get the ban lifted. British ministers must go to the next Luxembourg meeting with an offer to act irrationally (killing healthy cattle) so as to appear the irrationality of their critics, but without knowing how much irrationality (how many cattle) will do the trick.

When policy is motivated by hysteria and hysteria is not caused only by slaughter, there is no knowing where the bloodletting can end. I cannot imagine a better illustration of the madness to which Europe's farm policy has sunk. Some enthusiasts say repatriating agricultural policy to British control would be even worse. Rubbish.

Big government, be it in Whitehall or Brussels, boasts that it embodies reason and efficiency in public administration. It can see the wood above the trees. It can discount grubby local emotions. It can

plan. The distant ruler has the freedom to be sane and the power to make sanity effective. Yet last month, Herr Fischler mimicked Kafka's trial judge. "You object that this is not a trial at all? You are right: it is only a trial when I recognise it as one." A trial is an institution of reason. Herr Fischler does not pretend to reason in this matter. He might have continued with his Kafka, as he shook his loaded wallet at Britain's farmers: "It is often better to be in chains than to be free."

This is madness. The more distant a decision from its point of implementation, the more likely it is to be irrational. The greater the unreason, the greater the error and the greater the likely cruelty. And when Europe-wide bodies act for reasons of "public relations", heaven help us all. I am sure innocent EU ordered the Albigensian massacres to "restore public confidence" in the papacy. I am sure Catherine of Medici felt the same about the Huguenots on St Bartholomew's Day. I am sure Mao's order to kill all of China's birds because they ate the crops was applauded by the apparatchiks locked in the Great Hall of the People. An instruction to mass slaughter has long been a totem of the efficiency of central authority. The general knows that the order to kill — and to die — is the true test of loyalty. To impress his enemies, Taras Bulba butchered a hundred of his finest warriors. To impress his enemies, John Major will butcher ten thousand of his finest cows.

The public will view such slaughter with horror. The farmers' union, its eyes on compensation, may remark that "this crisis is now beyond the realm of science" and welcome a well-financed slaughter policy. Consumers are reacting with greater maturity. As with all food scares, they have hesitated, heard what they have been told and reacted with common sense. They regard beef as safe, and are eating it again. Europe's consumers will do so as well, in time. They will all blow raspberries at commissioners, ministers and lobbyists who claim to be privy to the confidence of the market.

Consumers are the market, and the market is working. It needs no assistance from Brussels, nor from those who want to turn the English countryside into a bovine charnel house. As for that charnel house, what has happened to veterinary ethics? When vets are told to kill healthy animals to appease Europe's politicians and help businesses with their "public relations", are they not subject to a Hippocratic oath?

Pensions made to measure

Anatole Kaletsky
asks if Labour has a pot of gold

If Labour hopes to find a pot of gold to pay for improvements in public services, it has only one place to look. Britain's welfare state may be modest by European standards, but the combined cost to the taxpayer of health, pensions, social security and personal social services is still £130 billion a year, or 46 per cent of total public spending.

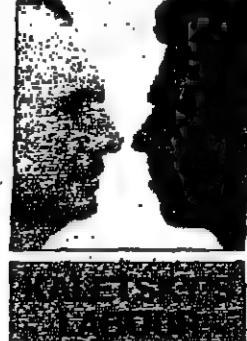
As one Labour leader told me, "we can sit here till doomsday and say we will govern without being tax-and-spenders, but we won't be able to prove it unless we can reform the welfare state".

Labour says it will save money by putting the jobless back to work. But with macroeconomic policies identical to the Tories' — and business policies such as the minimum wage, which will destroy jobs at the margin — why should we believe such claims? Training and education, even if successful, will help only in the very long term. Reforms in welfare itself could in principle encourage people to work, but Labour's policies in this area are not very different from the Tories'. For example, the vaunted idea of "carrot and stick" measures to get under-25s off the dole will depend entirely on the training carrots; the stick of a 40 per cent benefit cut for those who refuse already exists.

Yet Labour does have a chance to save big money on welfare, building on what the Tories have done. Confronted with growing welfare costs, the Tories said one thing and did two others.

They said they would root out all sorts of scroungers — homeless teenagers, unmarried mothers, refugees and nasty people of that kind. That produced big headlines but small savings. The two things the Tories did were more important: they tried to squeeze better value out of the health service by introducing commercial management; and they quietly restructured the state pension, putting it on a gradually declining trend.

The health experiment was, on balance, a failure, certainly in restoring



public confidence, and probably in reducing costs. Labour will partly reverse it. Some of the reasons for disappointment are similar to those in education: health cannot be rationed by money, and medical workers are motivated partly by non-commercial values. In principle, a market-based health system is hard to devise. In practice, no country has invented a commercial health system more efficient than the state-run NHS.

Labour's main plans can be briefly summed up as follows. The Tory split between health planning and delivery of services will be preserved, but the present renewable contracts between hospitals and health authorities will give way to long-term agreements. Fundholding will be replaced by a new system of GP commissioning, with large numbers of GPs grouped together to buy services and manage their relations with the NHS. Whether these changes will restore public confidence in the health service is an open question, but in the short term further upheavals are bound to increase costs, even if they do eventually improve morale.

For any hope of saving money, therefore, Labour must turn to pensions. Here a genuine opportunity lies within Labour's grasp. The Tory reforms have limited the growth of state pensions; so much so that in the next century a National Insurance surplus could make room for substantially lower taxes or higher spending on other programmes.

But to continue making savings on state pensions, the government must ensure that people make private provision to stave off poverty in old age. A new "second tier" of private pensions is needed for millions of casual workers outside occupational schemes.

Here Labour's policy, to be announced in detail next month by Chris Smith, promises a genuine advance. The Tories, essentially, want the insurance industry to sell more personal pensions. Labour, however, believes — with good reason — that personal pensions are another instance of market failure: the sales costs of competing insurers make them prohibitively expensive compared with National Insurance or occupational schemes. Labour therefore proposes to create a small number of large and competing schemes, with costs regulated by the government, but investment left to the private sector. The Tories had hoped to portray Labour's pension plans as a new device for creeping nationalisation or covertly raising taxes. But these schemes will not be compulsory and investment will be privately managed.

If Labour managed to pull millions of casual and self-employed workers into pension schemes without compulsion, it could, with a clear conscience, allow the basic state pension to continue to wither away. Gradually there would be leeway for more public spending or lower taxes. The next Labour government but two might even discover a crack of gold.

Tomorrow, in the Business section: Business, investment and finance.

Rose blooms

DISPLAYING all the unorthodox energies he showed in the former Yugoslavia, General Sir Michael Rose seems to be thriving in his new job as the Army's Adjutant General. Speaking at a conference in London yesterday, he described two incidents which typify the Rose approach to what some might have thought would be a rather dreary desk job for the former SAS officer, overseeing personnel and discipline.

Rose told of the formidable sergeant-major of his own regiment, the Coldstream Guards, who took it upon himself to help his boss in his campaign to boost declining numbers.

Taking advantage of the cash bonuses which can be offered to soldiers as an incentive to stay in the Army, the sergeant-major lined up 43 guardsmen, who had requested to leave, in a room with two tables. On one table was a pile of banknotes. The other was bare. The guardsmen were told, Rose recounted, that they could leave by one door empty-handed or by the other with £1,000 if they stayed in the Army. "The soldiers took the money," crowed Rose.

On another recent occasion, Rose found himself chatting to a recruiting sergeant. Looking him straight in the eye, Rose asked whether he would be prepared to consider enlisting a teenager who had "taken away a bicycle, was drunk in charge of the bicycle and was riding it without lights". The sergeant, baffled at the question, said yes, he would. Right answer. "Good," said Rose, "because that was me."

COME DANCING

GIVE HIM TIME

UNCONDITIONAL parental support is clearly not a quality admired in the Ingrams household. At an exhibition of works by Fred Ingrams in Chelsea on Monday, the artist's father, Richard, the crumpled editor of *The Oldie*, looked less thanwhelmed. Gazing at the lurid, cellulite-heavy nudes on display, he said: "I'm certainly not buying any. They are rather expensive for me. I might buy one in five years' time though, when he's come to his senses."

EEP BEEP

PARLIAMENT returned yesterday to find scenes from the Keystone Kops in New Palace Yard. The culprits were John Redwood, MP for Wokingham, and his ebullient aide de camp, Hywel Williams. As they pulled past security, one of the guards noticed someone

phrase "stupid is as stupid does". Clare Short, the Shadow Transport Secretary, for her robust stand against the polished toccatas of new Labour. Now more honours. Conservative Central Office has accorded her a nickname: "One Sandwich" Short.

DIARY

in the back of Redwood's car taking photographs, a strict security no-no. They were ordered to stop to receive their admonishment.

The cars behind grew restless, being forced to nudge backwards and forwards in the ensuing bottleneck. Some were honking. In the car behind Redwood was the quite formidable Dame Janet Fookes, Deputy Speaker and MP for Plymouth Drake, whom one is not advised to invite to road rage. Eager to attend a Speaker's meeting, she found herself sandwiched. "I had to summon my composure," she said bravely. "But I was very British about it. I sat in the queue very patiently without complaining."

• Paddy Ashdown has been inspired by Forrest Gump, the celluloid idiot savant who coined the

POPEYE had his spinach, Wellington had his beef, but for England's cricketers, nothing will quite do like the food of Nancy Pelosi. When the England team stepped out at Lord's this summer, however, they will be the first England side in 35 years to play at the ground without Mrs Doyle's victuals for Plymouth Drake, whom one is not advised to invite to road rage. Eager to attend a Speaker's meeting, she found herself sandwiched. "I had to summon my composure," she said bravely. "But I was very British about it. I sat in the queue very patiently without complaining."

"She has been a stern disciplinarian," says Dennis Silk, chairman of the Test and County Cricket Board. "No cricketer dared to go into lunch improperly dressed because he knew Nancy would send him out to smarten up. Even

Last lunch

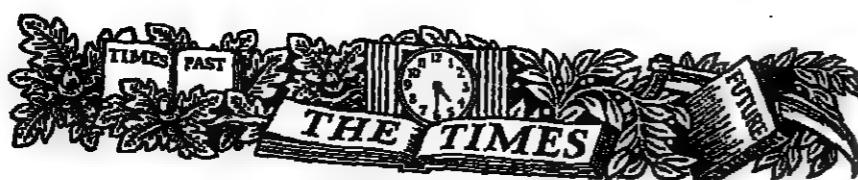
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THE TIMES WEDNESDAY APRIL 17 1996



STILL ON THE LINE

Louise Jensen's family is owed a better response from Britain

The killing in Cyprus of the young Danish woman, Louise Jensen, brought shame to the British army. Although three soldiers of The Royal Green Jackets have been properly sentenced to life imprisonment for her abduction, rape and manslaughter, the stain on the Army's reputation has only grown in the days since their conviction by a Cypriot court in Larnaca. Jensen's dignified, grieving family have taken the view that the British authorities owe much more than the few words which have been uttered — many of them egregious — by army officers and ministers of the Crown. We agree.

In a letter to the Prime Minister, written yesterday by a friend of the Jensen family, the dead woman's parents have called the British Government to account for its indifference to her death and to the suffering of her family. "The British Army," the letter says, "and the British Government responsible for the Army's activities, have lost a tremendous amount of respect around the world." This last judgment is, alas, as damning as it is true.

On the day after the three killers were sentenced, we called on the authorities to ensure that Britain's carefully cultivated international reputation for disciplined, reliable soldiers was not placed in further jeopardy by insensitive army handling of Miss Jensen's killing. A perfect example of this chutzpah was provided, on the day the trial ended, by Brigadier Arthur Denaro, the deputy commander of the British forces on Cyprus. "This was an isolated and thoroughly horrendous case," he said, "as damning as it is true."

nobody would blame the Army for what these men did." He compounded his folly by appealing to observers not to "get this incident out of perspective".

The only right perspective, however, is that of Miss Jensen's family. It is futile to tell them that there was no "failure" on the part of the Army. Of course there was failure and it was abject. As a correspondent pointed out on this page, "soldiers' behaviour is linked to their morale, which itself is linked to effective leadership". The three soldiers were found guilty of killing Miss Jensen: their officers stand guilty, too, of a failure to lead. Yet in his Adjutant-General's conference yesterday, General Sir Michael Rose — the Army Board member responsible for personnel and discipline — made scarcely a reference to the Jensen case.

In its poignant letter to John Major, the family ask whether "the British Army and the British Government intend to regain the respect lost by the appalling act of three professional soldiers under their administration and responsibility". They suggest, further, that the Army and Government "may retrieve some of their dignity by offering appropriate compensation". This would be both right and just. Paul and Anette Jensen, Louise's father and mother, should be compensated for their daughter's death — as a symbol of the nation's sense of responsibility. They are owed, also, a full and formal apology. In our article after the trial we said that the reputation of the British army and its ability to do its job was on the line in Cyprus. It is still on the line.

GET SHORTY

The leadership fumes, but voters may like a little candour

The moment that Clare Short opened her mouth to talk about tax on Sunday morning, it was clear that the Tories would exploit her frankness. John Major delightedly used Ms Short's words against Tony Blair at Question Time yesterday. Her admission that people at her own level of income ought to pay more tax was jumped upon as smartly by her own party leadership as by the Conservatives. Conventional wisdom on both sides thinks that such remarks damage Labour: voters, it is thought, will believe that Mr Blair's party has a hidden agenda on tax which will only emerge once an election has been won.

Labour's media controllers now hold their breath whenever Ms Short appears on air. Whether she is calling for the legalisation of cannabis, criticising Harriet Harman's choice of school or advocating higher tax, her candour makes her a target. On Monday, she had to be kept away from a rail privatisation press conference lest it turn into a seminar on progressive tax rates.

The electorate may, however, be more sophisticated than party strategists think. People know that Gordon Brown, not Ms Short, will be Chancellor of the Exchequer should Labour win office. They know that Ms Short is famous for not being able to smother what she really believes in anodyne party puffery. That is part of what makes her popular. Ms Short's contributions could even be electorally valuable to Mr Blair.

They reassess potential and traditional Labour voters that a cause has not been entirely lost in new Labour's attempt to capture Tory ground. Some voters genuinely do believe that cannabis should be legalised; others think that richer people should pay more tax. They may suspect that Mr Blair disagrees: but Ms Short's frank admissions at least make them think that Labour is more on their side than are the Tories. Her little indiscretions allow some steam to escape from the pressure-cooker atmosphere

created by the Labour leader's insistence on strict discipline.

The Shadow Transport Secretary plays another useful role for Mr Blair. On internal party disputes, she has proved herself robustly loyal and capable of swinging the Left behind the leadership. At last year's party conference, her powerful speech in favour of the National Executive Committee's deselection of Liz Davies won for Mr Blair a vote that might easily have been lost.

Unlike, say, Margaret Beckett, she is unwavering in the face of left-wing pressure. If Mr Blair depends on Ms Short, so does she on him. Her constituency, Birmingham Ladywood, is one of four in that city whose local party has been suspended, while investigations are made into possible Asian vote-buying. The four constituencies are to be merged into three before the next election and there is strong pressure for one of the candidates to be Muslim. Ms Short needs the NEC, under Mr Blair's instruction, to impose her on one of the constituencies so that she can remain in Parliament.

So this relationship between Ms Short and her leader, which began in hostility, has developed into a convergence of interest. The two are also friendlier to each other than they were in the past. Each admires the other's qualities, and Ms Short candidly admits that "I changed my mind about Tony Blair".

Of course collective responsibility is necessary for smooth government. Ms Short's behaviour is only on the cusp of acceptability, and she has already had to resign twice from the front bench because she disagreed with the party line. But there has to be room in political life for the occasional maverick. On a wall in her house she displays the Mark Twain line that "loyalty to a petrified opinion never broke a chain or fired a human soul": she has surely something to offer the constrained and soulless world of Westminster politics.

OUT OF THE SUN

A marriage that was never made for poetry

"Upon this day in Westminster that brings the Prince his Bride. Out of the sun there swoops a song that cannot be denied"; thus did the Poet Laureate, Ted Hughes, begin his song to mark the wedding of the Duke and Duchess of York in the summer of 1986. It was not his finest work, but as the years went by, the subject of the poem came easily to match the awfulness of its lines.

In the years since that initial brightness faded, the marriage has brought little but disquiet upon the Duke's long-suffering mother and the institution over which she presides. The same television sets which the poet described as trembling on the day of the wedding were last night replaying the infamous royal *It's a Knockout* programme. Those holiday camp scenes were the first step down the steep hill of diminishing public respect: others quickly followed. Almost as soon as the country had "dried its eyes" after the ceremony, this royal couple had begun to show themselves as the least dignified, the most determined, it seemed, to shrug off the mystique in which the family had deliberately, according to Bagehotian principles, been shrouded.

Almost every step that they took jarred with the accepted behaviour of the Royal Family. Their home in Windsor Great Park was described as a cross between a drive-in burger bar and an out-of-town Tesco store. Their fondness for expensive holidays, untempered by conspicuous devotion to charitable duties, lent them a reputation for extravagance and frivolity. Not long after the birth of their two daughters it became clear that their marriage was doomed.

Not all the fault was theirs. Expectations were too high; the preparation was too little. But the Duchess in particular did little that endeared herself to the British public and much that did not. Her covortings in front of her children, with John Bryan, her "financial adviser", could not easily be defended on the ground that the long lens of a press photographer had intruded too far.

Her commercial dealings and hunger for money added to the unpopularity of the younger royals and the tarnishing of the family's image.

All sympathy is due to the Queen who, only days before her 70th birthday, must endure further reminders of the failure of her children's marriages and further contemplation of the effect of these break-ups on the institution which she represents. She herself has been irreproachable in her conduct as monarch and can still tap a deep vein of public loyalty and support. Yet she must rue the day that the concept of a Royal Family rather than simply a monarch was invented. Bagehot thought it a useful device for ensuring the endurance of the Crown. But should the public ever tire of Britain's constitutional monarch, the fault will lie not with the Queen but with her offspring.

In July ten years ago *The Times* wished Prince Andrew and his wife every happiness in words barely less optimistic if somewhat less colourful than the Poet Laureate's. It would be unkind to wish them any less happiness today. It is their saving grace that, unlike the Prince and Princess of Wales, the Duke and Duchess have managed to remain on good terms — at least with each other.

Change of attitude to young offenders

From Ms Helen Edwards

Sir, Magnus Linklater ("Making friends of the friends", April 11) rightly points out the futility of much of our response to youth violence.

Focusing all our attention and most of our resources on locking up young offenders for longer periods may appear to offer the public more protection but will have little impact on the problem of violent crime and may even make matters worse.

In Scotland the children's panel system offers a more promising way forward: it seeks to involve everyone in the case to ensure that the young person changes his or her behaviour. We should certainly be prepared to learn from this sensible approach, but we need to go even further to tackle the underlying reasons why young people engage in antisocial behaviour and appear to show little respect for themselves or for other people.

Rather than simply banishing them from society, as current policy seems to suggest, we should seek to reintegrate young people, especially young men. One of the most tangible ways is to give them a realistic prospect of achieving a job. This is one of the best crime-prevention measures for a safer community and will encourage young people to learn self-respect and self-worth.

Yours,
HELEN EDWARDS
(Director of Communications,
National Association for the Care
and Resettlement of Offenders,
169 Clapham Road, SW9.
April 12)

From Miss Julie Daniels

Sir, Magnus Linklater's article touched a raw nerve. The failings of society and the resultant production of "a generation without rules" is a moot point.

I came from what many would describe as a deprived background (inner-city Liverpool), no paternal support, very little money) and the values that society failed to provide were instilled by my mother.

The basic manners, morals and rules one should learn as a child were to be found at home. Society was not expected to play that role.

To describe the description of a graveyard as avenging a sense of loss is puzzling. Such children have never been taught the values most of us take as the essential foundation of living in a civilised world and consequently satisfy destructive urges that have never been checked.

I agree that the Scottish children's panel system seems better than the system in England and Wales and that its example should be followed. However, society is perhaps to blame for eroding rules which frowned upon premarital pregnancy, bad language and disrespectful behaviour.

The attention paid over recent decades to civil liberty has played its part in the lawlessness Magnus Linklater describes. Because of the loosening of legal restraints and withdrawal of discipline (especially in schools), police and teachers are no longer the figures of respect they once were. Many parents of delinquent children cynically reinforce this attitude. Urgent action to put the responsibility back on to them by means of legal and financial penalties is imperative if we are to stop this decline.

Yours sincerely,
JULIE DANIELS,
9 Leedam Drive, El4.
April 12

Justice at Strasbourg

From Sir Michael Davies

Sir, We should all wish Lord Mackay of Clashfern well in his attempt to curb the wider excesses of the European Court of Human Rights at Strasbourg (report, April 9). This court suffered from three fatal defects.

First, there is no appeal from its decisions: unchecked tribunals at any level inevitably become arrogant and self-satisfied. Second, most of its judges are academics, who are notoriously bad at judging. Third, its rulings and language make it clear that its judges are not truly independent but fanatically devoted to the federalistic concept.

Unless these problems are firmly addressed and radically solved, the future is gloomy indeed.

Yours faithfully,
MICHAEL DAVIES,
6 Stone Buildings,
Lincoln's Inn, WC2.
April 9

Blasphemy law

From Mr John Bell

Sir, Mr Roy Edey writes (letter, April 10) that "it is necessary for the protection of society to have criminal sanctions against an insult so grave to one's faith that it is likely to cause a breach of the peace".

What happened to "turning the other cheek"?

Yours faithfully,
JOHN BELL,
The Hall, Thirsk, North Yorkshire.
April 10

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Letters for publication may be faxed to 0171-782 5046.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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Modern means of attracting youngsters to the Church

From Mr John Pearman

Sir, You are probably correct in arguing (leading article, "The empty pew", April 11) that restless innovation will not reverse the Anglican Church's decline.

With this attitude we don't even deserve the young people we have got and have drifted very far from Christ's great commission to take the love of God into the whole world.

Yours faithfully,
DAVID BURGIN,
Brookdale,
64 Longhurst Lane,
Marple Bridge, Stockport, Cheshire.
April 12

From Mr Giles Wingate-Saul, QC

Sir, A greater involvement of ordinary members will probably take the Church back nearer its roots. At St Paul's, Rusland, we parishioners take our own family services once a month; none of us who take them is trained. We aim to ensure that the children in this tiny parish enjoy the service and that it contains some Christian message usually more to do with conduct than with catechesis. Afterwards they play "ring" in the churchyard and I like to think that those who lie there enjoy their laughter.

The children ring the bell. (We have had to mend the rope twice; they are so keen.) They like to take the collection; in short they like to be involved. We will attract children only if we involve them in our worship. If we preach at them we make life more difficult for ourselves.

We have no parish priest but a reformed canon takes our monthly Communion service and tries to ensure that we do not stumble.

Is the real issue not what the Church can do for us and our young but what we can do for the Church?

Yours truly,
G. W. WINGATE-SAUL,
The Dower House, Whistock,
Rusland, Ulverston, Cumbria.
April 12

From the Reverend B. H. Adams

Sir, There is much to agree with in your leader. Certainly more "resources" will not attract young people to our churches and the preaching of the gospel is vital, but I cannot think that salvation lies simply in the King James version and the Book of Common Prayer.

There are many reasons why young people are not in our churches: peer pressure (it is not "cool" to go to church); lack of parental example; the erosion of Sunday as a day apart; greater mobility; sport and leisure activities; the shortage of and pressure on clergy so that young people get little of their time; a lack of Christian youth leaders; the collapse of Christianity in the secondary schools and so on.

Young people do have a deep interest in Christianity, as evidenced by thousands who attend Greenbelt, Spring Harvest and Soul Survivor, national events which the media seem to ignore or disparage. In our three country parishes we have a group of young people who meet each Sunday evening. Last month they organised a successful weekend specifically to evangelise their peers.

The Church, I believe, must make room for young people to worship in their own style. As they mature they come to see the value of more structured worship. It is important to maintain a variety of liturgies, with the King James version and Book of Common prayer as important ingredients, but it is a deep cultural change which is at the heart of the problem and we cannot simply put the clock back.

Yours faithfully,
BRIAN ADAMS,
The Vicarage,
Bude, Glastonbury, Somerset.
April 11

Other countries continue to follow the example and similar legislation will soon be passed in Italy and Ireland.

Last week Canada's Foreign Minister announced to the UN Human Rights Commission that Canada, too, is now pledged to introduce this extraterritorial legislation, and made reference to the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child as providing a sufficient basis for this extension of jurisdiction to deal specifically with child sex tourism.

Britain ratified this Convention in 1991. The Coalition on Child Prostitution and Tourism, which represents seven major charities, believes surely, with the forthcoming World Congress in Stockholm, it is now time for the Government to move beyond reluctance to positive action and introduce legislation to target child sex offenders in Britain.

Yours sincerely,
ANNE BADGER
(Campaign Co-ordinator,
Coalition on Child Prostitution
and Tourism).

Unit 4, The Stables, Broomgrove Road, SW9.
April 10

Saudi dissident

From Mr J. S. F. Parker

Sir, Like Mr Robin Morris (letter, April 9) I have lived and worked in Middle Eastern countries, but I cannot follow the sequence of his thought that aliens in those countries are rightly penalised for breaking their laws and his seeming to want such "rules" applied in Great Britain.

How does he know that the people of Saudi Arabia "do not wish" to have "a culture anything like that of the West"? Have their wishes been consulted?

Yours obedient servant,
JOHN PARKER,
8 Holly Terrace, York.
April 9

Pining away

From Mrs Henry Moore

Sir, Your Deaths announcements for April 11 include that of the sudden demise of Pine, Corsican, aged 110 years. Although not as old as that planted at Arley Castle, Worcestershire, in 1820 (*Beau's Trees and Shrubs Hardy in the British Isles*, 1976), it is touching that it was so treasured as to rank an entry in your columns.

I hope the mourner will plant a successor to be equally loved by generations to come.

Yours faithfully,
CECILY MOORE,
Shucknall Court, Hereford.
April 12

Never too late

From Mr John Orton

Sir, The good news in today's *Times* is the job ad for Voluntary Service Overseas that specifies an upper age limit of 70 years. The bad news is that it is unpaid ("a modest living allowance") and that the locations on offer are Vietnam, Laos, Indonesia or Nepal.

Well, beggars can't be choosers, I suppose.

Yours etc,
JOHN ORTON,
37 Chadacre Avenue,
Clayhall, Ilford, Essex.
April 15

OBITUARIES

PROFESSOR GEORGE CUSHING

George Cushing, Professor of Hungarian Studies at the School of Slavonic and East European Studies, London University, 1978-86, died on April 12 aged 73. He was born on February 17, 1923.

FOR many years Britain's leading scholar in the field of Hungarian language and literature, George Cushing was regarded as having a command of that glorious yet tortuous language surpassing that of anyone else of non-Hungarian descent. Through his translations he made Hungarian literature accessible to a wider public in this country.

He did much, as a stalwart friend of Hungary and as chairman for a time of the British Hungarian Society, to promote better understanding between Britain and Hungary. This involved continuous effort over a number of years in which the country gradually emancipated itself from the grip of the Soviet Union — seen at its most brutal in the suppression of the 1956 uprising — to happier and freer times.

George Cushing was born in Nottingham, the son of a Methodist clergyman. He won scholarships to Nottingham High School and Emmanuel College, Cambridge, where he read Classics. Four years' wartime military service came between school and university, but this was far from being a disaster for Cushing since during that time he was involved in intelligence work concerned with the Central European theatre, and in the course of it he learnt Hungarian.

When he came down from Cambridge in 1947, Cushing turned back at once to his Hungarian, and to the School of Slavonic and East European Studies at London University where he had learnt it. He was to spend almost all his academic life at SSEES. But first, in 1948, he took up a Hungarian Government scholarship at the Eötvös College in Budapest.

At the Eötvös College, Cushing turned his academic knowledge of Hungarian into a living, warm relationship with Hungary and its people. With the Soviet Union breathing down its neck, Hungary was slipping fast



into totalitarianism. Its intellectuals lived every day as if it might be their last. In the heady, anxious atmosphere of Eötvös College, Cushing established many of the Hungarian friendships which accompanied him right through life.

The circumstances of his departure from Budapest were typical of the man. He encountered a group of British young people of the left who were in Hungary on an official visit. He concluded that their hosts were giving them an incomplete picture of the situation and took it upon himself to show them other, less favourable, aspects of what was happening. The expedition came to official notice, and

in 1949 Cushing was expelled from Hungary.

Thereafter Cushing worked on Hungarian Language and Literature at SSEES for four decades. By 1976 he had become chairman of the department of East European Languages and, two years later, a full professor.

Although he retired as Professor of Hungarian Studies in 1986, he continued working at SSEES into the present decade, and was in regular touch with his colleagues there until he died.

Cushing brought to his work as a teacher, scholar, writer and translator all the kindness, single-mindedness and clarity of expression of an eccentric bachelor professor who might be

found in the pages of some Victorian or Edwardian novel. His love of his subject conquered many a reservation.

His translations brought the work of a number of Hungarian writers to wider notice among English readers, in particular that of the great 19th-century poet and revolutionary, Sándor Petőfi, and the 20th-century dissident writer Gyula Illyés. He translated *Puszta népe* (1936), the latter's classic, largely autobiographical, study of the Hungarian agricultural labouring classes — often little more than the serfs of the large estate owners — among whom he grew up, as *People of the Puszta* in 1967. It was widely regarded as being unsurpassable for its insight and the vividness of its language. He also translated Illyés's magisterial biography of Petőfi. And in the columns of the learned magazines he went on, as the years went by, unravelling complex linguistic issues such as — to quote the title of one of his obscure masterpieces — *The Desiderata in Hungarian*.

Naturally enough, Cushing travelled regularly to Hungary. He suffered when harm was done to it in the hard years, and rejoiced when in the end it emerged into the light of full sovereignty, democracy and freedom. He knew the country intimately and loved to recount some of the oddities and quiddities of its complex history. He numbered a great variety of Hungarians among his admirers and friends.

To them he was more than just a great Hungarian scholar and friend of Hungary. He was also the archetype of the old-fashioned academic Englishman, a precise scholar who could nevertheless enliven conversation with flashes of subtle wit.

Cushing made his home in Chishurst. From it he sailed forth to SSEES; to provide grateful congregations in Methodist churches with masterly performances on the organ; to do his share of work for the Methodist Church (on whose international affairs committee he served for many years); and to visit a great army of adoring godchildren.

He never married.

But she also brought ma-

CHARLOTTE BENTLEY

Charlotte Bentley, MBE, campaigner for the rights of enrolled nurses, died on March 20 aged 80. She was born on December 15, 1915.



CHARLOTTE BENTLEY was a nurse with a mission. While she was training at the Royal Free Hospital, London, she was an agitator who became national chairman of the Student Nurses Association, leading the fight for nurses who were in training to become State Registered Nurses to be given student status.

After qualifying she turned her political attention to the underdogs of ward staff — the State Enrolled Assistant Nurses, a lower grade than SRNs, created by the Nurses Act 1943. She transformed them both in hospital and in the community.

When she was appointed general secretary of the National Association of State Enrolled Assistant Nurses in 1955, the organisation was in so precarious a state that there had to be a whip-round to pay her first year's salary. This was an investment which rapidly paid off.

With a robust fighter for their cause, the National Association of State Enrolled Assistant Nurses first got the demeaning word "assistant" removed from their title by a Private Member's Bill introduced in the Commons by the redoubtable Dame Irene Ward. National conferences of enrolled nurses were arranged, raising their profile in the profession. Charlotte Bentley did not hesitate to criticise any matron whom she considered not to be treating enrolled nurses fairly or to be exploiting them.

She never married.

trons, nursing tutors and other general registered nurses together socially with enrolled nurses in the "all grade" overseas tours she arranged as secretary of the National Association of Enrolled Nurses. These took place in The Netherlands, Switzerland and Spain.

By the late 1970s she had achieved senior status for enrolled nurses, so that they now ran wards. She established the first scholarship for enrolled nurses, aided by a company who wanted to set up an award for the practical nurse.

Eventually the Association of Enrolled Nurses joined the Royal College of Nursing in 1977, when she became secretary of the nursing subcommittee of the Edwina Mountbatten Trust.

Latterly Charlotte Bentley suffered from Parkinson's disease. Throughout her life she was an atheist. She never attended church services at the national association conferences — "I would be a hypocrite if I did," she said with typical forthrightness.

She never married and leaves no survivors.

LORD HADEN-GUEST

Peter Haden-Guest, 4th Lord Haden-Guest and UN official, 1946-72, died on April 15 aged 82. He was born on August 29, 1913.

DESPITE the fact that Peter Haden-Guest spent most of his life in America where he worked as a senior level in the United Nations, he remained the quintessential Englishman in manner and habits. But he combined his Englishness with a cosmopolitan outlook. When he succeeded his brother Richard, the 3rd Lord Haden-Guest, to the barony in 1987, he used his seat as a backbencher in the House of Lords to debate foreign matters.

He had grown up in an intellectual, bohemian family. Peter Haden-Guest was the youngest of five children of the 1st Baron, Leslie Haden-Guest, a pioneering physician in child healthcare and Labour MP, who had met Lenin and Trotsky when he visited the Soviet Union in 1920. His mother Carmel was a novelist and playwright. His parents were well-known in Fabian and literary circles and enter-

tained Ramsay MacDonald, George Bernard Shaw, H. G. Wells and Rebecca West.

Haden-Guest was educated at the City of London School and at New College, Oxford, where he read History. However, from the age of 17 his main passion was ballet which he studied in London, and which drew him away — with the complete support of his family — from a more orthodox career path. He was a friend of Dame Margot Fonteyn, and in 1935 joined the Markova-Dolin Ballet. He danced with other companies in England and France for the next six years, including Ballet Diversissement, Ballet Theatre, Ballet Jooss, and the Repertory Dance Theatre.

Occasionally he was given a principal role, and he could certainly have made a longer career in dance had the war not intervened. But the outbreak of hostilities found him living in America, and he joined the Royal Canadian Navy, serving in Intelligence as a lieutenant and stationed in Ottawa.

After the war he settled permanently in New York, living in a flat in Greenwich



Village. He had been briefly married to Elizabeth Louise Coker and had one son, but that marriage ended in divorce. In 1945 he married Jean Pauline Hindes, who was then working in theatre production on Broadway. Later she had a career in television, becoming vice-president of CBS from 1976 to 1986.

In 1946 Haden-Guest joined

the Secretariat of the United Nations in New York. There were various overseas assignments so that, although New York was his official home, he did not spend such long, uninterrupted periods there as to become in any way Americanised. He visited Santiago, Chile, in 1950, Bangkok in the late 1950s, and the UN offices in Geneva in 1967.

His position was as Chief of Editorial Control, overseeing the output of UN literature in French and English. It was a job which admirably combined his editorial talents with his interest in history and current affairs. He was patient and gentle to his staff, quietly-spoken and unassuming. But once his reserve was broken down — which was quickly — he often took people by surprise with his talent for mimicry and his outrageous sense of humour. He retained those English habits which suited him, always stopping for tea in the afternoon, whatever business there was left to do, and remaining loyal to English food, which his wife had to scour Manhattan to buy. He never had any trace of an American accent.

He retired from the UN in 1972, and from then on divided his time between a house in East Hampton, where he would swim across the bay daily, and California, where he had grandchildren, and where his wife was taken by business. In 1987 he inherited the barony on the death of his brother Richard, and took his seat in the House of Lords. He visited London every year, but his favourite home remained East Hampton. In old age, despite being blessed with remarkably robust health, he still had an abundance of energy, and would go dancing every week. Recently he had been writing a memoir about his childhood.

He is survived by his wife, and by three sons and a daughter. His son Christopher Haden-Guest, who is married to the actress Jamie Lee Curtis, succeeds him to the barony.

It was a productive time and Kitching published at least six

PROFESSOR JACK KITCHING

Jack Kitching, OBE, FRS, Professor of Biology, University of East Anglia, 1963-74. He was born on October 24, 1908.



A DEDICATED zoologist, Jack Kitching devoted his life to the pursuit of his twin interests of cell physiology and marine ecology. Early in his career he published papers on osmoregulation and tonic regulation in protozoa, and later, after his appointment to a chair in Biology at the University of East Anglia, he diversified and expanded his area of research, producing a major contribution to the understanding of the dynamics of cell ultrastructure.

He also carried out research at Lough Neagh in southwest Ireland, at a site which has since become a conservation area. His work there was marked by the award of an honorary doctorate by the National University of Ireland in 1983. He was also elected a Fellow of the Royal Society in 1960 for his work on protozoa and marine ecology.

John Alwynne Kitching, known to everyone as Jack, was born into a Quaker family in York. He was six years old when his father died and his mother moved to Bournemouth, from where Jack entered Cheltenham College. Schoolboy interests in natural history led him to study Zoology at Trinity College, Cambridge, and, after graduation in 1931, he was appointed lecturer in Zoology at Birkbeck College, London, where he obtained his PhD in 1933.

In 1936 he moved to the University of Edinburgh, but returned south to a lectureship in Experimental Zoology at Bristol University in 1937. Towards the end of the following year he was on the move again, taking up a Rockefeller Fellowship at the renowned biology department at Princeton University.

In 1945 Kitching returned to Britain to resume a lectureship at Bristol University. A year later he became a Reader in Zoology. During this time he firmly established his marine ecology research at Lough Neagh. He purchased land adjacent to the Lough and, with the help of family, students and colleagues, constructed two

small buildings, providing laboratory and domestic accommodation.

Around that time a number of new universities were being established in Britain, and Kitching was appointed to a chair in Biology at the University of East Anglia in 1963. From 1967 to 1970 he also served as Dean of the School of Biological Sciences. Though stiff and awkward, in manner and outwardly shy, he was well liked by his students for his kindness and understanding.

In 1945 Kitching returned to Britain to resume a lectureship at Bristol University. A year later he became a Reader in Zoology. During this time he firmly established his marine ecology research at Lough Neagh. He purchased land adjacent to the Lough and, with the help of family, students and colleagues, constructed two

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Wild v Pensions Ombudsman

Before Mr Justice Carnwath
[Judgment April 3]

When a pension scheme gave trustees power to make a lump sum payment to dependants of a deceased member, the trustees had not properly exercised their discretion when they made the payment to a person who had cohabited with the deceased and who was dependent on him out of choice rather than necessity.

Mr Justice Carnwath sitting in the Queen's Bench Division so held, dismissing an appeal by John Allen Wild, a former trustee, from a decision of the Pensions Ombudsman who found that the trustees of the Deter Fund Pension Scheme had exercised their discretion in a manner which constituted maladministration.

Mr Timothy Carlisle for Mr Wild; Mr Nicholas Randall for the Ombudsman.

MR JUSTICE CARNWATH said that the deceased, Keith Hindle-Smith, was a member and also a trustee of a scheme which was established by a trust deed made in June 1985 for the benefit of employees and directors of Montec International Ltd.

He had then completed a lump sum death benefit nomination form stating that in the event of his death he wished the benefit to be

divided equally between his son, Anthony Smith, and his daughter, Tracey Harley. The deceased died in August 1995.

The rules of the fund provided that in the event of death before the age of 75 the trustees had power to pay the benefit to the "dependants, relatives or legal personal representatives of the member".

In the period before his death, the deceased, who was divorced, had lived with Mrs Carol Slack.

The appellant and the other trustees decided to exercise their discretion in relation to the £140,000 standing to the credit of the deceased by paying £80,000 in cash to Mrs Slack and by establishing a trust fund of £60,000, with the income to be paid to Mrs Slack for life and the deceased's two children to be entitled to the capital in equal shares the event of her death.

The deceased's son complained to the Occupational Pensions Advisory Service who referred the matter to the Pensions Ombudsman. The appellant had by then retired as a trustee but continued to deal with the matter.

The ombudsman ruled that the trustees' reasons for exercising their discretion in favour of Mrs Slack as "being the lady with whom the deceased had been living for some time" did not of itself suggest that she was financially dependent on the deceased.

neither did the facts that he was paying the household bills at his address or that he had spent some of his own money to refurbish a cottage which she owned.

The ombudsman held that there had been no valid exercise of discretion by the trustees and ordered that the full amount of the benefit be paid to the son as legal personal representative.

He further ordered that each trustee pay £500 to the deceased's son and daughter to compensate them for their "injustice beyond pecuniary loss involving distress and inconvenience as a result of the trustees' maladministration".

His Lordship said that in his decision as to Mrs Slack's dependency, there was no evidence before the trustees, or indeed the ombudsman, that she was not able to look after herself if required to do so. As she explained, she gave up her financial independence in response to the deceased's wishes, but that was a matter of choice and not of necessity.

Although the ombudsman did not specifically distinguish between his two functions under the Pensions Schemes Act 1993 in regard to points of fact or law on the one hand and maladministration on the other, the sequence of his reasoning was clear enough to show that he had considered the matter properly.

He was perfectly entitled to conclude that the trustees had not investigated the matter as they should have and that that constituted maladministration.

As to how appropriate it was to order the appellant to pay compensation to the children, his Lordship said that it was important that before making such an order the ombudsman should take into account who ultimately was going to bear the cost of the compensation.

The ombudsman was unaware that the appellant had ceased to be a trustee. The pension scheme clearly provided that a trustee was not to be held personally liable in the absence of dishonesty or wilful breach.

The draftsman of that clause did not have in mind the possibility of award for distress and inconvenience. There was nothing which would justify imposing a personal liability on a trustee contrary to the clear intention of the trust deed which was the basis upon which he undertook his trust.

It would be wrong to allow the award against the appellant to stand unless and until the ombudsman had satisfied himself that it would not result in a personal liability on the appellant which would not be met out of the trust fund.

Solicitors: Rayfields; John Yolland, Purley.

No interest on premature tax assessment

Billingham (Inspector of Taxes) v Myers
Before Lord Justice Nourse, Lord Justice Aldous and Sir John Balcombe [Judgment March 27]

An assessment raised under section 88 of the Taxes Management Act 1970 on interest on tax recovered to make good loss due to taxpayer's fault, at a time when the tax could still be paid on or before the due date, albeit that the neglect of the taxpayer had caused the Crown to lose its right to recover it on that date, was not made for the purposes of making good a loss of tax and thus the tax charged could not carry interest under section 88(1).

The Court of Appeal so held in a reserved judgment dismissing an appeal by the Crown from the decision of Mr Justice Knox (*The Times*, December 6, 1994, [1994] STC 1016) that had upheld a determination of Hampshire general commissioners allowing in part an appeal by the taxpayer, Mr Martin Trevor Myers, against a determination made on March 10, 1992 by the inspector of taxes with regard to interest on an assessment to tax on capital gains of £3 million for the year ending April 5, 1988.

Section 88 of the 1970 Act, now substituted by sections 159, 160 and 179 of the Finance Act 1989, provides:

"(1) Where an assessment has been made for the purpose of making good to the Crown a loss of tax wholly or partly attributable to the neglect of any person, the tax charged by the assessment... shall carry interest at the prescribed rate from the date on which the tax ought to have been paid until payment."

Section 7 of the Capital Gains Tax Act 1979 provides: "Capital gains tax assessed on any person in respect of gains occurring in any year shall be payable by that person on or before 1 December following the end of that year, or at the expiration of a period of 30 days beginning with the date of the issue of the notice of assessment, whichever is the later."

Mr Alan Moses, QC and Mr Timothy Brennan for the Crown; Mr Kevin Prosser for Mr Myers.

MR JUSTICE NOURSE said that the appeal raised a question of construction on section 88(1) of the 1970 Act. The authorities established that there could be "a loss of tax" if tax was paid late.

The question was whether an assessment was "made for the

purpose of making good... a loss of tax" if it was made at a time when the tax could still be paid on or before the due date, albeit that the neglect of the taxpayer had caused the Crown to lose its right to recover it on that date.

The taxpayer's return was issued to him on April 6, 1988, requiring its return within 30 days. He sent it to the Revenue on November 1. The taxpayer accepted that that amounted to "neglect" on his part.

On November 7 the assessment was issued. It followed from section 7 of the 1979 Act that the tax assessed was not payable until December 7. Had it not been for the taxpayer's neglect, the assessment could have been made on or before November 1 and the tax would have been payable on December 1.

Both sides agreed that the question whether an assessment fell within section 88(1) or not had to be judged as at the date on which it was made. As at November 7 the tax might or might not be paid on or before December 1.

If it was paid after that date, manifestly there would be a loss of tax. If it was paid on or before that date manifestly there would be no loss of tax; the Crown would be in

the primary argument of Mr Moses was that, in the context of a neglect consisting of a failure to make a return in due time, "loss of tax" meant loss of the right to recover tax on the date on which it would have been payable but for the neglect. That was unacceptable as a permissible construction of the material words in section 88(1).

Lord Justice Aldous and Sir John Balcombe agreed.

Solicitors: Solicitor of Inland Revenue: Berwin Leighton.

Council must follow guidance

Regina v Islington London Borough Council, Ex parte Rixons

Before Mr Justice Sedley [Judgment March 15]

A local authority exercising its discretion to arrange for recreational and gateway educational facilities for a disabled person was obliged to take into account practice guidance issued by the Department of Health.

Further, in reaching its decision as to the provision of care services to a disabled person in need, a local authority could not depart without good reason from the policy guidance issued by the secretary of state. Where the disabled person had learning difficulties, the local authority must conscientiously take into account non-statutory guidance from the Department of Education.

A failure to comply with the review panel's recommendations was not in itself a breach of the law; but the greater the departure, the greater the need for cogent articulated reasons if the court was not to infer that the panel's recommendations had been overruled.

The second concerned a failure to comply with the policy guidance. If that guidance was to be departed from it must be with good reason, articulated in the course of some identifiable decision-making process even if not in the care plan itself.

The care plan also failed at a number of points to comply with the practice guidance. While such guidance lacked the status accorded by section 7 of the 1970 Act, it was something to which regard must be had in carrying out the statutory functions.

There was a duty under section 41 of the Education Act 1944 to secure provision for adequate educational facilities for a person

over school age with learning difficulties.

That duty was a general duty and in the present case the local authority was in breach by failing to secure provision for persons with difficulties as severe as Mr Rixons'.

As Lord Justice McCowan had concluded in *R v Gloucestershire County Council, Ex parte Mahood* (*The Times* June 21, 1995), the section 2(1) exercise was needs-led and not resources-led. The authority had not undertaken anything like the exercise of adjusting provision to meet described in *Ex parte Mahood*.

However, it was something which the local authority had to take very seriously and act with care and sensitivity.

For reasons given earlier in relation to non-statutory guidance, the local authority had consequently to take into account the circular issued by the Department of Education in coming to its decision (Circular 1/93, issued January 5, 1993).

In the event of an alleged breach of section 41 of the 1944 Act, the proper recourse was to appeal to the secretary of state.

Solicitors: Ms Marion Chester; Ms Marie Rosenthal, Islington.

Risk of harm was foreseeable

Margeson v J. W. Roberts

Lil

Hancock v Same

Before Lord Justice Russell, Lord Justice Saville and Lord Justice Orton [Judgment April 2]

The owner of an asbestos factory should reasonably have foreseen a risk of some pulmonary injury to children playing in the factory loading bay and was therefore liable when they developed mesothelioma.

Miss Jennifer Richards for Mr Rixons; Mr Roger McCarthy for the local authority.

It was never disputed by the defendants that the steps taken by them to alleviate the problems of dust contamination were woefully inadequate.

Mr Margeson and Mrs Holland had played as children in the loading bay where contamination was at a very high order indeed.

Despite suggestions to the contrary, theirs were not test cases and the outcome of their cases did not preempt those of other possible claimants.

The Court of Appeal so held dismissing an appeal by J. W. Roberts Ltd from a decision of Mr Justice Holland on October 27, 1995 awarding £50,000 to Evelyn Margeson, widow and administrator of Mr Arthur Margeson who died from mesothelioma in December 1991, and £65,000 to Mrs June Marjorie Hancock, who developed mesothelioma in 1992.

Mr William Woodward, QC and Mr Jonathan Harvey for the appellants; Mr Wingate Saul, QC and Mr David Allen for Mrs Margeson; Mr Robin Stewart, QC and Mr Andrew Spink for Mrs Hancock.

LORD JUSTICE RUSSELL, giving the judgment of the court,

said that the appellants' factory in Armley, Leeds, had deposited enormous amounts of asbestos dust outside its perimeter.

It was never disputed by the defendants that the steps taken by them to alleviate the problems of dust contamination were woefully inadequate.

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The appeal concerned the duty owed by the defendants to the two plaintiffs, Lord Lloyd and Peter Smith (*The Times* May 12, 1995, [1996] AC 155, 190) who stated: "The test in every case ought to be whether the defendant can reasonably foresee that his conduct will expose the plaintiff to the risk of personal injury."

Their Lordships took the view that in this case liability attached to the defendants only if the evidence demonstrated that they should reasonably have foreseen a risk of some pulmonary injury, not necessarily mesothelioma.

Solicitors: Jacksons, Middlebrough; Irwin Mitchell, Sheffield.

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As the millennium approaches, television programme-makers are becoming obsessed with the paranormal

When I predicted that 1996 would see the outbreak of millenarianism, I never thought it would be so bad. As the magic date approaches, the supernatural is all over our screens, and I'm not just talking about Anne and Nick's *Good Morning* phone-in on extraterrestrials yesterday. Ghouls, ghosts and flying saucers are now being publicised by the BBC as, if you please, "factual".

There are no ghosts. I thought this was a generally accepted fact — not a controversial proposition such as "There is no God". But the BBC's current series, *Secrets of the Paranormal*, prepared by its feet-on-the-ground Community Programme Unit, allows mystic communers to proclaim, unchallenged, their unearthly powers. Tomorrow night will give us Raymond, a man who, putting on a funny voice and staring at the camera in a meaningful way, tells

us he is also "Paul", the ghost of a doctor who died 2,000 years ago.

Fair enough. If Raymond thinks he is inhabited by Paul, no matter — unless, as in one of the most repellent scenes I have seen offered for early-evening television, he burrows loony fingers into an ailing old man's pasty flesh and claims to locate the bladder.

Raymond says cheerfully that he has never had any medical training but Paul did, 2,000 years ago (that magic number). Whereupon Paul speaks up: "There's no difference between me and conventional doctors... Just because I'm dead shouldn't make any difference."

It should make a difference to the BBC. The national broadcasting organisation ought not to be putting out this rubbish. At very

least the BBC should append a health warning, or an earnest studio discussion of the kind that followed Joan Bakewell's discovery in the Holy Land, in time for Easter, of tomb marked Jesus, Mary and Joseph. (If BBC's *Heart of the Matter* does not win a Comedy of the Year award for this account of Joan's descent into the sepulchre, there is no justice.)

Context is all, you'll agree. The realm of mystery is universally popular: witness the success of *The X-Files*, a hot favourite now on both Sky and the BBC. But the unexplainable as entertainment is one thing. David Copperfield claims only to be an illusionist, performing wondrous tricks we can't understand. Uri Geller, on the other hand, claims psychic

powers and gets next week's *Secrets of the Paranormal* all to himself to claim, among other things, the healing power of his "energised" teddy bears.

More of the same comes in July, with *Out of This World*, another six-parter on ghosts, poltergeists,

and psychic or out-of-body experiences. It promises a balanced look at the unexplained — that is, it will give equal weight to the sceptics. Is this balance? To present science as just another point of view?

In June, to be sure, the BBC will offer *Strange Days*, an inquiry into modern superstition. It is hardly reassuring, however, that this inquiry into "the retreat from reason" will take in both alternative medicine and psychotherapy — treatments provided by the NHS.

The BBC needs to apply the smack of firm editorship if this phantasmic tendency is not to get out of hand before the year 2000. Some things are still beyond the pale: wrestling, shopping, striping. Ghostly communicating belongs there too, especially when

you consider the basis of its appeal — hope offered to those suffering from incurable illness or grief.

The placard-wavers on last week's *Secrets of the Supernatural* demanded the rubric's right to know what "secret" information the Ministry of Defence holds on UFOs. Oh yes.

Meanwhile, the documents of the Monopolies and Mergers Commission, the publication of which has landed *The Economist* in hot water, show the commission about to approve two giant power mergers knowing that these are not in the public interest. The report, prepared for the Department of Trade and Industry, also reveals that one of the MMC's advisers, Patricia Hodgson, the

BBC's director of policy and planning, courageously dissented from the decision, pointing out that the mergers would put up the price of electricity. What better information to keep from the public?

The hoary old official argument that outsiders will not give advice to government agencies unless they are assured of secrecy — has been demolished by the one regulatory agency worthy of the name, Ofcom, the telecommunications watchdog. When it invites opinions on proposed policies, Ofcom asks that the responses submitted be allowed to be made public. It will promise confidentiality on request, but gives warning that such views may then be given less weight because they are not open to challenge.

Now there's an idea for the BBC. How about "Secrets of Government Departments"? A series that would unquestionably come from beyond the Great Divide.

The BBC is losing touch with reality



BRENDA MADDOX

Is Auntie even-handed?

Alexandra Frean on television's political coverage



Female interviewers such as Kirsty Wark, left, and Sue MacGregor are better at getting politicians to stick to the point

No one was more surprised to read on the front page of yesterday's *Daily Mail* that BBC interviewers were too "soft" on Labour politicians, than the two people who were supposed to have made the accusation.

Lord Skidelsky, a former SDP member now on the Left of the Tory party, and Jean Lambert, a Green Party activist, had been invited by the BBC to analyse the corporation's political output.

Having studied a selection of television and radio programmes, they had indeed expressed doubts about whether the BBC "tested all parties with equal rigour". They concluded that the corporation's interviewers "failed to test Labour politicians... by allowing them to avoid elaborating on their alternatives to government policies and by failing to question whether big changes that they proposed were really needed".

The two singled out a February edition of BBC1's *On the Record*, in which Peter Mandelson, MP, adviser to Tony Blair, was interviewed by John Humphrys. Mr Mandelson should have been more closely questioned about his view that there should be "super ministries" to oversee Whitehall, they said.

What surprised Skidelsky and Lambert was not that their supposedly confidential report should have been leaked to the *Daily Mail*, but that their remarks on political

impartiality should have assumed headline proportions.

"My view really was that the BBC and the rest of the media do not just report news. They create it," Skidelsky says. "I never thought of this exercise as a news event, but I have been rung up by ten newspapers about it. A news item has been made out of nothing. This is a prime example of what I was saying."

If the BBC does have a tendency to be more intimidating towards the Tories than the other parties, Skidelsky believes, it is not so much due to an inherent left-wing bias, but simply "because the Tories have more to answer for as they are in power". The main thrust of Skidelsky's analysis

concerns not impartiality, but the fact that the BBC's coverage has become overly reliant on superficial soundbites which encourage politicians to tailor their discourse. Head-to-head interviews in particular have become knockabout and point-scoring "sporting spectacles", which often fail to inform or stimulate.

Skidelsky and Lambert believe that by adopting a lower-key style of interviewing, women interviewers, such as Sue MacGregor and Kirsty Wark, are more effective than men at getting politicians to address issues and stick to the point. Lambert's spokeswoman says her comments about political impartiality have been taken "massively out of

context". More important, she says, is the report's conclusion that the BBC's political coverage focuses too much on Westminster with journalists and politicians sharing the same narrow agenda.

As Skidelsky and Lambert believe it would be healthy for political leaders not to assume that anything they say would be automatically covered by the BBC, they suggest the corporation drops its coverage of Prime Minister's Questions for a six-month trial. The BBC denies the specific charge that it was too soft on Mr Mandelson, but recognises that it could be perverse of the corporation not to seek the views of outsiders about how well it is achieving this.

Tony Hall, head of news and current affairs at the BBC, says that the report is part of a rolling programme examining its overall news coverage. "Any self-respecting journalistic organisation needs to sit down and look at whether it is getting to the right stories and the right people," he says.

In addition to helping it to expand the range of its news and current affairs coverage, Hall hopes such exercises will allow it to get to the heart of the "big issues" that affect people's lives.

Given the increased pressure from the Government for the BBC to make itself more accountable to its licence-payers, it would be perverse of the corporation not to seek the views of outsiders about how well it is achieving this.

Which companies do Britain's top earners rate? Alex Benady finds some surprising answers

Hey, big spender



ABs love foreign cars

THE AB FAVOURITES	
The ten companies most highly rated by all ABs	
1 Marks & Spencer	11.2
2 Sainsbury	8.8
3 Mercedes	7.3
4 BMW	5.7
5 Tesco	5.2
6 BBC	5.1
7 Disney	4.6
8 Virgin	3.8
9 Mars	3.0
10 Volvo	2.6

ABs love foreign cars

The ten most highly rated by AB Times readers

1 Microsoft

2 Renault

3 Nike

4 Esso

5 Unilever

6 Peugeot Talbot

7 Mercedes

8 Body Shop

9 British Airways

10 Seb

Jones' familiarity is the one thing that all the top ten companies have in common. "They are brand names which people encounter every day and they deliver consistently," he says.

The results may give the top companies a warm glow but

However, according to Mr

the significance of this survey goes way beyond a mere popularity poll. There are ten million ABs in the UK, accounting for 22 per cent of the population. Although the term AB refers to occupation, not wealth, they have an average household income of

£31,000 a year compared with the national average of £19,000. So they account for at least a third of all spending — more in some luxury markets.

What's more, because they

have positions of power and authority, ABs often set the agenda for what the remaining three quarters of the population should consume.

The problem for marketers is that ABs are notoriously hard to reach with advertising. They watch just two thirds the average amount of commercial television, and they are often fiercely resistant to its blandishments. "You have to know exactly what they watch, what they read and what they consume," explains Glen Parker, media researcher at advertising agency J. Walter Thompson.

The exercise reveals that the British upper-middle classes are not quite the homogeneous bunch you might have thought. For instance, *Times* readers are decidedly modern and cosmopolitan in the companies they rate highly.

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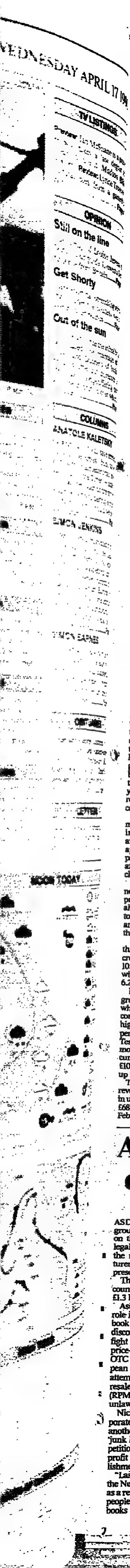
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Josephine Barstow
in marvellous
voice as Medea



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Steve and Rachel
Ovett are selling
their stately pile



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Simon Barnes on
why Manchester
finally saw red

THE TIMES



BUSINESS EDITOR Lindsay Cook

WEDNESDAY APRIL 17 1996

C&W delays filling top post while BT talks continue

BY ERIC REGULY

MERGER negotiations between Cable and Wireless and British Telecom have reached the point that C&W has put the appointment of a new chief executive on hold.

It has also emerged that the top executives of the two companies met yesterday in an effort to speed up the negotiations, aimed at creating a £3 billion global telecoms player

with a strong presence in Asia, America and Europe.

The merger talks have been much more extensive than previously believed. The heads of the companies' various departments, including finance, regulation and strategy, have been meeting regularly in an effort to determine how their activities should best come together.

Sir Peter Bonfield, the chief executive of BT, and Sir Iain Vallance, the

chairman, met with Rod Olsen, the acting chief executive of C&W, and Brian Smith, the chairman, at BT's headquarters in London. Sir Peter and Mr Smith had been in contact with each other before the meeting.

Until yesterday, BT insisted that its senior executives had not been in contact with each other since the initial round of negotiations collapsed last month and that any talks that did occur were largely limited

to the financial advisers. BT's main adviser is N M Rothschild & Co's Goldman Sachs.

C&W had been looking for a chief executive since last November, when the board asked James Ross and Lord Young of Graffham, who was chairman, to leave. Lord Young was replaced by Mr Smith.

C&W then said it hoped to have the new chief executive in place by March. The merger talks, however,

have made the appointment unnecessary. C&W would not hire someone for a position that might disappear in a few months. Similarly, no candidate would be interested in a "caretaker" position.

C&W has an American candidate in mind but would ask him to join only if talks break down, forcing the company to pursue an independent strategy. If the companies combine, Sir Peter, the former ICL chairman

who replaced Sir Iain as BT's chief executive in January, would become chief executive of the merged group. The companies hope to have an agreement in principle within a few months. Deutsche Telekom would be a top candidate for Mercury, which C&W owns but would have to sell if it merged with BT. The German company said last week that creating a British business is a priority.

Tesco to create 4,000 more jobs with 24 new stores

BY SARAH BAGNALL

TESCO, Britain's biggest supermarket group, is to create 4,000 new jobs by opening 24 new stores this year. The jobs are in addition to the 4,500 new jobs announced last month as part of the food retailer's drive to improve customer service.

The new store opening programme, which comprises eight superstores, 12 compact stores and four Metro stores, comes after the opening of 23 new stores last year.

The news came as the food retailer surprised the City with the announcement that it intended to pay a less generous dividend to shareholders in the future. The group said it had decided to rein in the growth in dividend payments because it was spending more than it had predicted two years ago. As a result, the food retailer wants to conserve cash.

Sir Ian MacLaurin, chairman, said: "In the light of the investment opportunities available, we believe it is appropriate in future years to pay progressive dividends, but at a rate of growth which is closer to that of earnings."

In January 1994, Tesco announced its intention to pay progressive dividends, well ahead of earnings because of tougher planning restrictions and depressed trading during the recession.

As a result, over the past three years, Tesco has increased the dividend by about 10.6 per cent a year, compared with the growth in earnings of 6.2 per cent.

However, last year the group spent £649 million, of which nearly £600 million was UK expenditure and was higher than the group had pencilled in three years ago. Tesco now expects to spend more than £700 million in the current year, of which nearly £100 million will be in Europe, up from £42 million last time.

The news came as Tesco revealed a 14.5 per cent jump in underlying pre-tax profits to £681 million in the year to February 24 and a further

increase in its share of the food sector market. Including £6 million net loss on the sale of fixed assets and the £39 million cost of integrating Wm Low in the previous year's figures, pre-tax profits rose 22.5 per cent to £675 million.

Sales including value-added tax rose 19.8 per cent to £13 billion, helped by a 19.8 per cent rise in UK sales to £12.4 billion. Like-for-like sales rose 8.9 per cent. The group managed to lift its market share from 12 per cent in December 1994 to 13.6 per cent in December 1995.

The current year has started well with like-for-like sales growth of 7 per cent in the first five weeks of the year, far outstripping City expectations. The company said part of the growth reflected the continued success of Clubcard, its loyalty card which has more than eight million users. Analysts had expected a slowdown in like-for-like sales after

Tempus 28

Clubcard had passed the anniversary of its launch in mid-February.

Sir Ian said: "Clubcard continues to be a tremendous success. It has helped to attract new customers and has increased the spend of existing customers."

During the year, customers received £62 million of Clubcard vouchers. In its first year Clubcard performed better than expected by making a small profit contribution.

The food retailer reiterated that it expected the petrol price war to cost it £30 million in lost profit. However, the bulk of this was already factored in to City analysts' forecasts.

The final dividend was lifted from 5.9p to 6.55p, making a total for the year of 9.6p, compared with 8.6p last time.

The dividend, due to be paid on July 1, is payable out of earnings of 21.9p a share, up 9 per cent. The shares fell 3p to 27p yesterday.



Sir Ian MacLaurin continues to bring in the customers with the store's Clubcard

Asda renews fight over drug prices

BY SARAH BAGNALL

ASDA, the supermarket group, is to renew its assault on the UK's last remaining legal price-fixing agreement, the right of drug manufacturers to set prices on non-prescription medicines.

The market for over-the-counter medicines is worth £1.3 billion a year.

Asda, which played a key role in the demise of the net book agreement with heavy discounting, is taking its fight to destroy the 25-year price-fixing agreement for OTC products to the European Commission. It is to attempt to have the so-called resale price maintenance (RPM) agreement declared unlawful.

Nick Cooper, Asda's corporate counsel, said: "This is another outmoded piece of junk law which limits competition and protects the profit margins of the establishment."

"Last year we destroyed the Net Book Agreement and as a result, ordinary working people are reading more books than ever. Now RPM

on medicines and vitamins must go."

Last October Asda defied the RPM agreement by cutting up to 20 per cent off the prices of a range of branded range of vitamins, minerals and dietary supplements. The company was forced swiftly to reinstate the prices when the manufacturers sought injunctions.

Asda is in the process of launching an expanded range of own-label medicines, which fall outside the ambit of the price-fixing agreement.

The Office of Fair Trading has yet to make public the findings of an inquiry into the pricing of OTC products, launched after Asda's move to cut prices.

City analysts argue that the abolition of RPM would reduce prices of medicines and reduce the profits of retailers, such as Boots and manufacturers like SmithKline Beecham as well as force many small independent pharmacists out of business.

In the stock market Asda's shares rose 1p to 109.2p.

Gas service chief to retire early

BY CHRISTINE BUCKLEY

THE MAN at the helm of British Gas' much-maligned service division is to leave the company.

David Wells, 55, is to take early retirement from the company he joined in 1969. Mr Wells, who has headed the service division since its formation three years ago, will leave in late summer after briefing his successor. He has no plans for other work, British Gas said.

The company said Mr Wells had indicated a wish to retire early several months ago and that he would leave British Gas having "successfully established service as a separate business".

His role came under intense scrutiny last winter when complaints about the company's loss-making service division soared.

Mr Wells will be replaced as managing director of service by Roger Wood who moves from Matra Marconi Space UK, where he was managing director. Pennington, page 27

OFC directors accused by DTI

BY ROBERT MILLER AND KAREN ZAGOR

DIRECTORS of the troubled Ostrich Farming Corporation (OFC) siphoned off investors' money through disadvantageous contracts with suppliers, the Department of Trade and Industry has alleged.

OFC, which has ceased trading following the presentation of a winding-up petition by the DTI, attracted millions of pounds from thousands of UK investors.

The DTI further alleges that OFC entered into uncommercial contracts with a number of "other companies" that were not in the interests of OFC as a company and that were intended to financially benefit the recorded directors of the "other companies". The petition adds: "Money is siphoned off from the company (OFC) by this method."

One of the two directors named is Brian Ketchell, who is the subject of an application by the DTI for disqualification as a company director in connection with his conduct as a director of Full Force Ltd. OFC, the DTI says, "is partly under the control of a person who is alleged not to be fit to be a director of a company."

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BUSINESS TODAY

STOCK MARKET INDICES

FTSE 100	3825.3	(+34.8)
Yield	5.9%	(+0.05%)
FTSE All share	1903.19	(+17.97)
New York	2168.17	(-14.57)
Dax	6611.25	(+18.43)
S&P Composite	644.69	(+2.40)

US RATES

Federal Funds	5.0%	(+0.05%)
Long Bond	8.9%	(+0.05%)
Yield	5.80%	(+0.05%)

LONDON MONEY

3-month Interbank	5.01%	(+0.05%)
Libor long gilt	5.01%	(+0.05%)
future (Jun)	10.8%	(+0.5%)
Yield	5.8%	(+0.05%)

STERLING

New York	1.5072*	(1.5072)
London	1.5062	(1.5076)
DM	2.2500	(2.2500)
FF	7.7288	(7.7250)
FR	1.6550	(1.6550)
Yen	163.40	(163.40)
2 Index	83.6	(83.6)
US \$	DOLLAR	
London	1.5109*	(1.5135)
FF	1.6288	(1.6235)
BP	1.2309*	(1.2309)
Yen	108.28*	(108.55)
8 Index	98.8	(98.8)

YEN

Tokyo close	Yen 108.45
Brent 15-day (Jul)	\$16.80 (n/a)

GOLD

London close	\$392.85 (\$392.85)

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PFI comes under fire over value for money

By ROSS TIEMAN, INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

THE Government's showcase Private Finance Initiative (PFI), designed to switch responsibility for public infrastructure projects to the private sector, has been roundly criticised by a Conservative-controlled committee of backbench MPs.

While welcoming the thrust of the PFI, the committee said better evaluation and monitoring was needed to ensure that taxpayers were getting value for money. In their first report into the initiative, the cross-party committee of MPs also highlighted a series of concerns about delays and other difficulties arising from the initiative.

In particular, the MPs called upon the Treasury to "demonstrate with reference to particular examples and total figures, that higher financing costs have been more than offset by efficiency gains".

They questioned "whether it remains appropriate that private finance options must

always be explored", and called for "a clear statement of the future revenue commitments implicit in PFI projects".

The conclusions, drawn after a two-month inquiry, reveal that the Government has failed to demonstrate to the satisfaction of its own backbenchers that the PFI is delivering value for money.

Members of the committee were also concerned about the delays caused by the Government's insistence that every public spending project, however small, was first offered to the private sector.

"It would be unacceptable if the Government's planning for the future provision of roads or hospitals began to be driven by the shorter-term perspectives of private bidders," said the committee.

It added that the PFI, by reducing capital spending, should enhance control of overall public spending — but there was a danger that it might do the opposite.

Private companies committed to invest £4.8 billion in building and operating projects ranging from roads to prisons last year. The Government is aiming to achieve its commitments totalling £14 billion by 1998/99.

Andrew Smith, the Shadow Chief Secretary to the Treasury, said the report confirmed Labour concerns that the PFI was being "pushed" by the Government. In particular, he said, "the Government had failed to set strategic priorities to aid private bidders for projects, or streamline the bidding process so that projects could get off the ground more quickly."

Mr Smith also complained about a lack of accountability for public contributions to private finance initiatives, and the lack of guidelines to ensure that the projects offered to the private sector were appropriate.

Rates for small denomination bank accounts only supplied by Barclays Bank PLC. Current rates apply to travellers' cheques. Rates at all other trading branches.



Right note: Richard Holland, chief executive of Boosey & Hawkes, the music publisher and instrument maker, said 1995 pre-tax profits rose £1.16 million to £5.1 million. The total dividend is 7p (5.9p). With a final 5.47p City diary, page 29

TOURIST RATES

	Banks	Banks	Banks
Australia \$	2.02	1.88	1.88
Austria Sch	17.02	16.52	16.52
Cambodia R	48.78	45.48	45.48
Cambodia P	2.17	1.97	1.97
Cyprus Cyp	0.731	0.689	0.689
Denmark Kr	9.41	8.61	8.61
Finnland Mkr	7.72	7.07	7.07
France Fr	7.19	7.03	7.03
Germany Dm	2.43	2.22	2.22
Greece Dr	387.00	362.00	362.00
Hong Kong \$	12.52	11.54	11.54
Iceland Is	1.02	0.94	0.94
Israel She	5.700	4.500	4.500
Italy Lira	177.50	161.00	161.00
Ireland £	2.52	2.57	2.57
Netherlands Gld	2.698	2.469	2.469
New Zealand \$	2.37	2.18	2.18
Norway Kr	10.43	9.05	9.05
Portugal P	24.00	22.50	22.50
S Africa R	5.88	6.09	6.09
Spain Pts	197.80	184.80	184.80
Sweden Kr	10.85	10.08	10.08
Turkey Lira	1.55	1.31	1.31
UK £	1128.01	1078.91	1078.91
USA \$	1.008	1.008	1.008

Rates for small denomination bank accounts only supplied by Barclays Bank PLC. Current rates apply to travellers' cheques. Rates at all other trading branches.

Defiant Midshires besieged

By ANNE ASHWORTH

SPECULATORS continue to crowd the branches of Birmingham Midshires Building Society despite its decision to raise the minimum opening balances on its savings accounts.

At some branches, demand has even increased as investors clamour to become members, so qualifying for a bonus if the society abandons its much-vaunted attachment to mutualism. One financial ad-

viser requested 400 applications forms. Anyone aspiring to become a Birmingham Midshires member at 17 city centre branches now needs £150. At other branches, the minimum is £500.

Bid rumours have gained strength after the announcement that the Bristol & West is to be taken over by the Bank of Ireland. However, a spokesman said that the society was not, and never had been, in

merger or takeover talks. The minimum level had been changed to maintain standards of service.

□ The Chelsea Building Society has closed four accounts, having seen new accounts grow tenfold. It has withdrawn three share accounts which carry voting rights and so are entitled to participate in any merger bonus.

Pennington, page 27

CBI gives warning on job insecurity

By PHILIP BASSETT
INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

JOB insecurity can undermine Britain's economic prosperity. Adair Turner, Director-General of the Confederation of British Industry, said last night.

His statement on the eve of publication of the latest unemployment figures today will be seized on by Labour leaders as recognition of the importance they have been attaching to attacking rising job insecurity.

Addressing business leaders in Leeds, Mr Turner referred to the claim by Ian Lang, President of the Board of Trade, that job insecurity was a "state of mind", saying that while insecurity might be a matter of perception, in business perceptions mattered.

He said: "Unless addressed, that feeling of insecurity can undermine the consumer confidence and public acceptance of the flexibility so vital to the UK's future prosperity."

Mr Turner, who drew accusations of being too close to Labour when he said recently that higher growth would and should lead to higher wages, added that education and training to ensure people's continuing employability would be vital for the return of the economic "feel-good" factor.

While Britain spent a higher proportion of output on education than Germany or Japan, it did not seem to be getting a better result for it. He questioned "whether some of our problems are not the product of mistaken educational policies pursued over many years".

Ministers hope that the latest unemployment figures will show a fall in the number out of work and claiming benefit after last month's surprise 6,800 increase. But Labour will claim that the number of people forced into part-time or temporary work has risen by more than a third since the last general election.

Michael Meacher, Labour's employment spokesman, will claim that more than 1.4 million people are "under-employed", working part-time, or on temporary contracts because of a lack of full-time jobs.

At the crossroads? page 29

Second director to quit First Choice

FIRST CHOICE HOLIDAYS, the UK's third-largest tour operator, to lose its second board member in six months. Peter Phillipson, managing director of the UK tour operating division, confirmed yesterday that he had given six months' notice. He is rumoured to have fallen out with Francis Baron, chief executive, over the commercial direction of the company. No replacement has yet been found, although the company says it is looking for an outsider.

Mr Phillipson's decision to quit comes within months of the resignation of Malcolm Heald, First Choice's respected finance director, who is also believed to have left the company because of a personality clash. Mr Heald joined Hepworths and was replaced by David Gill, former finance director of Proudfit-

ton.

Mr Phillipson's decision to quit comes within months of the resignation of Malcolm Heald, First Choice's respected finance director, who is also believed to have left the company because of a personality clash. Mr Heald joined Hepworths and was replaced by David Gill, former finance director of Proudfit-

ton.

UP TO 30,000 banking jobs could be lost if the Treasury approves plans to end the physical exchange of cheques between banks, according to Biifu, the banking union. The plans propose that cheques no longer go physically through the clearing system. Instead, computers would deal with them electronically. Ed Sweeney, general secretary of Biifu, said: "Staff displaced should be switched to help customers at hard-pressed counters and to raise staffing levels elsewhere."

Threat to bank jobs

NEW construction orders fell for the second month running in February, according to the Department of the Environment. However, taking the three months to February together, orders were 9 per cent up on the previous three and 11 per cent up on the same period a year ago. Comparable figures for private housing were 5 per cent and 18 per cent lower; public housing and housing associations, 6 per cent up but 10 per cent down; and in infrastructure, 6 per cent lower but 10 per cent up.

Construction orders fall

PEPTIDE THERAPEUTICS, the biopharmaceuticals company that floated in November, said yesterday that there is a good chance it will strike a licensing agreement with Mochida Pharmaceutical of Japan by the end of the year. The agreement would allow Mochida to test and eventually sell Peptide products in exchange for royalty payments. Peptide reported an operating loss of £3.8 million in the year to December 31 after additional investment in research and development.

Gradus advances

GRADUS GROUP, manufacturer of flooring accessories and lighting systems, made pre-tax profits of £3.6 million last year, a rise of 15.8 per cent. The result was achieved despite a lack of improvement in trading conditions. Earnings were 13.49p a share up 11.9 per cent. The company, which secured a stock market listing last year, is paying a final dividend of 3.6p a share for a maiden total of 4.6p. The shares were unchanged at 12.6p, against a placing price of 12.2p.

APH plans expansion

AUTOMOTIVE Precision Holdings, the manufacturer of high precision components for the automotive industry, proposes to expand manufacturing capacity at its site in Tonbridge, Kent, to cater for expected growth in demand. Yesterday the company reported a rise in pre-tax profits to £6.1 million 1995, compared with £5.6 million. Earnings were 10.1p a share, rising from 9.1p. The total dividend is increased to 5p a share from 3p, with a final 3.3p due on May 31.

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- Langtang
- Mustang
- Everest Traders Route
- Mera Peak Expedition

This week *The Times*, in association with Exodus Travels, launches an exciting competition: the chance to win an adventure holiday for two every year for life. There are 200 adrenaline-pumping holidays in 65 countries to choose from and every day we will feature details of one exhilarating type of adventure.

Today we look at trekking in the Himalayan Kingdom of Nepal, one of the most beautiful countries in the world. It contains an incredible variety of scenery, including huge glaciers, alpine pastures, dense unirrigated forests and terraced hillsides.

Most of these treks are not for climbers, they are for serious walkers with a spirit of adventure. On the Everest Panorama holiday, above, which is a grade A* trek, you fly from London to Kathmandu and then on to Lukla airstrip. You stay in village inns and mountain lodges run by Sherpas renowned for their hospitality.

From Namche Bazaar, the main town

of the Khumbu valley and headquarters of Sagarmatha National Park, the trek goes to what is arguably the finest mountain viewpoint in the world: Thyangboche, the famous Buddhist monastery.

TREKKING PROFILE: 17 days, nine walking, altitude maximum 4,260m, five nights hotels, nine nights lodges.

DEPARTURES: Oct 9 and 23, Nov 30, Dec 18. Ask for dossier TNR.

PRICE: £1,195-£1,260 plus insurance £52. Send for a grading guide to help you decide which type of trek you are physically capable of: Exodus Travels, 9 Weir Rd, London SW12 0LT.

Some treks are grade E, such as the Mera Peak Expedition, which goes to a maximum of 6,476m and for which you would need some previous ice-axe and crampon experience. Your reward would be reaching the summit of a Himalayan peak with views that encompass four of the five highest mountains on earth.

But there are trekking holidays, such as Nepal Discoverer, which is grade A and one which anyone who is reasonably fit would enjoy.

You fly to Kathmandu then drive to Pokhara via Gorkha. You can go rafting on the way to Chirwan National Park and a safari into the jungle.

TREKKING PROFILE: 17 days with four optional day walks, maximum altitude 2,000m.

DEPARTURES: Oct 9 and 23, Nov 30, Dec 18. Ask for dossier TNR.

PRICE: £1,195-£1,260 plus insurance £52.

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For your chance to win an adventure holiday for life, collect 15 of the 18 adventure tokens which will appear every day in *The Times* until May 4.

Send them with the completed entry form to: *The Times*/Exodus Adventure Holidays Prize Draw, 16 Whitefriars St, London, EC8 2NG. The closing date for entries is Wednesday, May 15, 1996.

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STOCK MARKET



MICHAEL CLARK

National Power put into play as takeover target

NATIONAL Power, the biggest of Britain's power generators, has been put into play as an eventual takeover target.

This follows yesterday's sharp rise in National Power shares of 31½p to 52½p, and in the partly paid shares of 30p to 38p. Turnover was heavy with almost 13 million shares changing hands. At these levels, the group is valued at £5.6 billion.

Talk in the Square Mile last night claimed a bid from an American utility was imminent. The noisy buying by the heavyweight speculators would certainly suggest that something is afoot, but it is unlikely that any move will be made until after the next round of consolidation within the electricity industry gets underway.

The Department of Trade has already received the Monopolies and Mergers Commission report on National Power's and PowerGen's bids for regional electricity companies. Southern Electricity, eased 10p to 88½p and Midlands Electric, up 1p at 39½p. Any bidder for National Power would have to overcome the golden share that the Government retains. The special share has the power to block any unwanted bid.

Certainly, the size of the rise in the National Power share price and the heavy turnover would indicate that this is more than the usual run-of-the-mill stock market ramp. The quality of the speculative buyers will give the National Power board something to think about.

The flurry of activity in National Power share price split over into the rest of the market, where prices breached the 3,800 level for the first time to close at a record high with a rise of 34.8 at 3,825.3. By the close, almost 900 million shares had changed hands. The move by the London market comes on the back of a 60-point rise by the Dow Jones industrial average in New York, which was again extended in resumed trading last night.

Speculative buying was also recorded among the water companies after Southern International, the US utility group, said that it was looking to make a bid. Southern is poised to sell half its stake in South West Electricity, the regional electricity company it bought last year for £1.1 billion. Bill Dahlberg, chairman



Liberty was among retail sector shares that improved

of Southern, told BBC Radio's *Financial World Tonight* that he would use the proceeds from the sale of the stake in Swed to bid for a water company.

Last night, the speculation suggested Southern might bid for South West Water, already the subject of bid approaches from Severn Trent, up 12p at 603p, and Wessex Water, up

products. JJB Sports, 10p firmer at 66½p, reports next week. There was a muted response to full year figures from Tesco, Britain's biggest supermarket chain, which reported pre-tax profits of £681 million, compared with £595 million last time. Sales of more than £13 billion were boosted by the introduction of its Clubcard.

Brokers complained that it was difficult to judge from the figures the cost of the petrol price war on profits. Some of them estimate the final bill could be as high as £30 million. The share finished 3p cheaper at 287p.

Full-year figures from Tie Rack failed to match expectations, leaving the price 5p lower at 165p. Pre-tax profits rose £500 million to £7.9 million.

Reuters slipped 2p to 749p

in response to news of a 17 per cent increase in first-quarter revenue to £713 million. But the group said that there were signs of a definite slow-down in revenue from information products. This has been attributed to a consolidation in the financial services industry.

A sharp jump in profit at Cobham, the old Flight Refuelling group, was rewarded with a rise of 18p at 549p. The group boasts a current order book of more than £300 million and has pitched for several other contracts.

□ GILT EDGED: Prices were squeezed higher in early trading and the best gains were held with the support of a positive performance by German bonds.

There had been concern that the market would turn easier after the terms of the next auction were announced, with the Government planning to issue a further £3 billion of Treasury 7½ per cent 2006. The amount being issued was at the top end of the range. The auction is due to take place on April 24.

In the futures pit, the June series of the Long Gilt advanced £13.32 to £105.29 as a total of 56,000 contracts were completed.

In longs, Treasury 8 per cent 2015 rose £13.32 to £97.12, while at the shorter end, Treasury 8 per cent 2004 was £3.32 better at £102.10.

□ NEW YORK: Wall Street stocks extended their mainly earnings-driven rally into midday in spite of weakness in the bond market. The Dow Jones industrial average was up 18.43 points at 5,611.50.

Mouths of intense negotiation with the minority share-

rises were also seen in Liberty, 15p to 390p, Marks & Spencer, 10p to 452½p, Great Universal Stores, 23p to 742p, Storehouse, 5p to 352p, Next, 20p to 58p, Oasis Stores, 14p to 349p, Innovation, 20p to 175p, and QS Holdings, 6p to 50p.

Dixons, up 17p at 506p, is due to give a presentation to brokers in London later today on prospects for its digital

share price.

Elsewhere, those attracting support were Southern Water, up 19p to 659p, Thames, up 17p to 58p, Yorkshire, up 12p to 49p, and United Utilities, up 40p to 604p.

Evidence of an upturn on the high street set the stores sector alight and bolstered sentiment generally. The British

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THE
TIMES

CITY
DIARY

True blues line up for Kalms

JOHN REDWOOD and John Patten were among the early visitors at the third Dixons Insight '96 exhibition at Canary Wharf yesterday. Prestigious invites for the private exhibition were issued by Sir Stanley Kalms, chairman of Dixons, and a staunch Tory supporter. Redwood, who is rumoured to be making his way back into the Cabinet, was paying particular attention to the latest in digital cameras. No Labour luminaries were in evidence, but Dixons assures me that cross-party invitations were sent out. "We're only half way through the first of three days. There is still plenty of time."



Kalms: Invitations

Bishko's beef

AFTER Sainsbury's and Asda cut the price of beef in the aftermath of the BSE scare, troubled executives at The Rack were set to discount their ubiquitous cow design. "By as much as £4," said chairman Roy Bishko, "but sales in the de have actually increased over the last couple of months." Apparently, it's popular with Dutch farmers and the chairman of McDonald's in Japan.

Out of tune

BEHIND the record annual results at Boosey & Hawkes, the international music publisher and instrument maker, is a somewhat tuneless chief executive. Richard Holland, who made his way up through the company from group finance director in less than 18 months, hasn't been near his cello since he was 13.

Tit for tat

THE pigtail-pulling behind the launch of *Sunday Business*, which makes its debut this week, brings memories of the playground flooding back. The latest wheeze comes from VNU Business Publications, which has sent a solicitor's letter to Tom Rubythorn, proprietor of *Sunday Business* and former "autocrat" of *Business Age*. Peter Kirwan, Rubythorn's successor at the business magazine, who says he's worked hard to lose the magazine's racey image since he took over as editor, is furious with Rubythorn for using *Business Age* editorial to fill the *Sunday Business* dummy.

Eagle eyed

RON URQUHART, the American managing director of People's Bank in the UK, which starts selling its credit card in this country next week, spent six hours yesterday tussling with Sidney the Bald Eagle — all in the name of publicity. "Being a City person, it was terrifying," gasps Urquhart. "I was balancing it on one arm and fixing my hair with the other, then its wings would open and just mess it all up again."

THE Londonside of the International Bar Association is hosting a Borderless Crimes and Criminal Organisations conference next month, in Dublin, while the International Conference Group's money laundering seminar is being held this month in Lisbon.

MORAG PRESTON

Philip Bassett on
the trend and
pattern of the
number of people
without work

Ministers are approaching today's unemployment figures with caution. Last month's 6,800 increase was both unexpected and unlikely to be significantly altered — and ministers are concerned that it is not followed by a further rise.

While the link between unemployment, the absence of the economic "feel-good" factor and the Government's electoral fortunes is complicated, ministers are aware of how potent a political weapon not just joblessness but widespread fear of insecurity will be.

The last thing the Government needs on unemployment is last month's surprise rise becoming a trend as the general election moves closer.

So, what is happening to unemployment now? Behind the headline figures, what is the trend and pattern of the number of people without work?

■ Trend: Whitehall officials claim that in spite of last month's rise, the overall trend is still downward, falling by something like an average of 10,000 a month now, although the Central Statistical Office's seasonal adjustment programme is currently giving a trend figure of a fall of about 12,500 per month.

But they accept this rate has now been declining if not steadily, then at least for some time.

Take not just individual month-by-month figures, but the average changes in claimant unemployment over three and six months. These give an idea of the trend and direction of unemployment.

The graphic shows the recent and clearly sporadic monthly figures set against a moving three-month average, which statisticians agree shows a clear decline in the rate at which unemployment is falling.

A year ago, when claimant unemployment fell by 25,400, the average three-month change was a monthly fall of 34,500. The six-month change averaged 37,700. Now, the three-month change is down to 10,400, and the six-month to 13,100.

Inevitably, month-by-month scrutiny of economic data such as the unemployment figures tends to focus on their change, with much read into the amount by which unemployment has risen or fallen. But the monthly changes are, of course, tiny against unemploy-

ment as a whole. Last month's rise, for instance, was a 0.3 per cent change from January's unemployment level. Even the biggest monthly drop — 51,800, in December 1994 — since unemployment started to fall in December 1992 was only a 2.1 per cent change on the previous month's level.

■ Labour market:

However

economically

damaging its effects,

unemployment is only one element in the market. Our graphic sets out the structure of the UK market, showing those in work, those unemployed, and the economically inactive — principally, retired people and those looking after a home.

Just as unemployment is

constantly changing, so too is the overall labour market dynamic. Using figures drawn from the Government's quarterly Labour Force Survey, between autumn 1992, roughly when unemployment started to fall, and autumn 1995, the most recent full LFS data available, three main things have happened.

First, employment has

grown — up by 504,000 over

the period, or about 2 per cent.

Secondly, employment has

split roughly evenly between men and women. Secondly,

unemployment has

fallen — down by 462,000, or more

than 16 per cent. Thirdly, the number counted as economically inactive is up — by 51,800, or 1.3 per cent, with a large-scale net increase among men of 310,000.

Over the past year, for instance, the number of men deemed to be economically inactive has risen by 102,000 — almost exactly the same as the rise in male jobs. Over the same period, the number of economically inactive women has fallen by 105,000. Some independent analysts and politicians opposed to the Government argue that the increase in economic inactivity is at least in part a disguised form of growing unemployment.

■ Rate:

According to the latest figures, claimant unemployment is now at a rate of 7.9 per cent, measured as a proportion of the overall workforce. Since unemployment started to fall in December 1992, when the unemployment rate was 10.5 per cent, the proportion of people in Britain without work has declined 2.6 percentage points, or about a quarter. The downward progress of unemployment has been slow, but steady, as the graphic shows.

■ Gender:

The unemployment

rate is markedly differ-

ent for men and women in Britain, with men, in general, still harder hit. Within the overall rate, more than one in ten men in Britain are without work — 10.7 per cent, or almost 1.7 million men. For women, the rate is a good deal less than half that — 4.3 per cent, or 525,400 women.

People under the age of 25

make up a huge 30 per cent of all unemployment under the standard LFS definition of joblessness. They comprise about half of that proportion of the total number of people in employment. Unemployed young women make up almost a third of the total of this age band, probably reflecting for many how protean is the line between unemployment and economic inactivity — three-fifths of which is made up of women.

■ Duration:

By contrast, men

make up by far the largest

share of the long-term unem-

ployed — 75 per cent, accord-

ing to LFS figures

on the number of people out of work for a year or more (though for many people with experience of it, long-term unemployment is certainly seen as starting as being without work for six months or more, rather than a year). Currently, there are just under one million people who have been without work for a year or more — 952,000, down

from 1.1 million a year ago.

Although any change in long-

term unemployment was slow

to begin once overall unem-

ployment had started to fall, it

is now coming down notice-

ably — down by 154,000, or

just under 14 per cent, over the

past 12 months.

Long-term unemployment

among women is falling faster

= down 17.6 per cent over the

period. For men, women and the two taken together, long-term unemployment has been

falling proportionately much

quicker than even the unex-

pectedly early drop in unem-

ployment overall — although

some City analysts are expect-

ing a shift in that in today's

figures.

■ Region:

People in different

parts of Britain are affected

differently by unemploy-

ment, and by its fall. In terms of the actual numbers out of work, and excluding the special case of Northern Ireland, unem-

ployment is highest in the

South East, at 683,500, fol-

lowed by the North West at

242,500, and Yorkshire and

Humber at 200,200. By

this measure, unemploy-

ment is lowest in East Anglia, at

62,800, followed by the South

West at 156,100, and the East

Midlands at 141,700.

For much of the Eighties,

the pound, which was per-

ceived in some quarters as a

petro-currency, was grossly

overvalued and entered the

ERM at too high a rate. The

months following black

(golden) Wednesday per-

mitted a correction. This correc-

tion, against the continental

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will fall much further so

long as the possibility of

EMU and a Labour govern-

ment remain.

A better measure of

the currency is its move-

ment against the dollar,

which

is still the most widely used

international currency.

Against this, the pound has

risen in the three years to

which Mr MacShane refers.

Yours faithfully

S.J. GREEN,

26 Sheen Lane, SW14.

BUSINESS LETTERS

Measure pound against dollar

From Mr S. G. Green

Sir, Dennis MacShane, MP, spoils his case (April 5) by misquoting statistics. The pound has not lost between 20 and 25 per cent of its value compared with the strong European currencies since the end of 1992. Taking the mark as the proxy for these currencies, the pound has lost 8 per cent since the end of 1992. True, it has lost nearly 18 per cent against the Swiss franc; but then both the Germans and the French, as a result of their blind pursuit of the elusive Maastricht criteria, have devalued their own currencies against the Swiss franc by 10 per cent in that period.

Perhaps Mr MacShane was thinking about the end of 1991, since when the pound has lost just over 20 per cent against the mark, but, again, he might have gone back to the end of 1989, since when the pound has lost 17 per cent against the mark. For much of the Eighties, the pound, which was perceived in some quarters as a petro-currency, was grossly overvalued and entered the ERM at too high a rate. The months following black (golden) Wednesday permitted a correction. This correction, against the continental currencies, has probably gone somewhat too far but it is unlikely that the pound will fall much further so long as the possibility of EMU and a Labour government remain.

A better measure of the currency is its movement against the dollar, which is still the most widely used international currency. Against this, the pound has risen in the three years to which Mr MacShane refers.

Yours faithfully

S.J. GREEN,

26 Sheen Lane, SW14.

Advance warning

From P. J. Underwood

Sir, You published a letter from me in December 1994 regarding the refusal of British Gas to levy a lower price increase in view of my having paid more than two years in advance and they were and are obtaining interest on my money. With my latest bill they have sent me a booklet entitled *Your Gas Supply*, and the section headed "Security Deposits" states that "Your deposit will earn interest while we hold it". It appears one has to be one of the "Can't pay, won't pay" brigade to obtain any relaxation of their stone-faced attitude to the people who pay their wages.

Is this not typical of current thinking that only wrongdoers get rewards, and is it not about time it was put a stop to? Yours faithfully, P. J. UNDERWOOD, 18 Edinburgh Close, Ickenham, Middlesex.

Wall St blues

From H. Marston

Sir, Wall Street Woe: What has caused such

Direct
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Shares reach record high

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

High	Low	Company	Price	%	Yield	PE
326	301	Alfred Dunhill	308	+ 6	12.1	18.1
325	301	Bell & Howell	308	+ 7	12.1	18.1
463	415	Black & Decker	424	+ 2	12.2	18.1
454	415	Blue Chip	424	+ 7	12.2	18.1
423	372	British Steel	389	+ 2	12.3	18.1
195	155	Daymond Corp	155	- 1	11.3	18.1
625	575	Dunlop	575	+ 1	12.4	18.1
155	135	Eastman Corp	135	- 1	12.5	18.1
2512	1912	Edwards	1912	+ 4	12.6	18.1

BANKS

High	Low	Company	Price	%	Yield	PE
355	325	Barclays	325	- 2	12.7	18.1
285	245	Citibank	285	+ 2	12.8	18.1
174	145	HSBC	145	- 1	12.9	18.1
78	65	Crusade Group	65	- 1	13.0	18.1
242	202	Deutsche Bank	202	- 1	13.1	18.1
165	135	Daymond Corp	135	- 1	13.2	18.1
155	125	First Trust	125	- 1	13.3	18.1
280	230	Goldman Sachs	230	- 1	13.4	18.1
280	230	Hambros	230	+ 1	13.5	18.1
314	274	Industrial Corp	274	+ 1	13.6	18.1
165	135	Investec	135	- 1	13.7	18.1
165	135	Lehman Bros	135	- 1	13.8	18.1
165	135	Midland Bank	135	- 1	13.9	18.1
165	135	NatWest	135	- 1	14.0	18.1
165	135	Prudential	135	- 1	14.1	18.1
165	135	RBS	135	- 1	14.2	18.1
165	135	Standard Chartered	135	- 1	14.3	18.1
165	135	Suntrust	135	- 1	14.4	18.1
165	135	Tower Stock	135	- 1	14.5	18.1
165	135	U.S. Bank	135	- 1	14.6	18.1
165	135	Woolwich	135	- 1	14.7	18.1

BREWERIES, PUBS & RESTAURANTS

High	Low	Company	Price	%	Yield	PE
350	300	Aaron's	300	+ 5	12.8	18.1
350	300	Alexa Hotels	300	+ 7	12.9	18.1
465	425	Bar & Bar	425	+ 2	13.0	18.1
465	425	Black & Blue	425	+ 3	13.1	18.1
465	425	Brick Inn	425	+ 4	13.2	18.1
465	425	City Centre	425	+ 5	13.3	18.1
465	425	Compass Group	425	+ 6	13.4	18.1
316	286	Davidson's	286	+ 1	13.5	18.1
316	286	Food & Drink	286	+ 2	13.6	18.1
316	286	Fullers	286	+ 3	13.7	18.1
316	286	Fuller's	286	+ 4	13.8	18.1
316	286	Fuller Smith & Turner	286	+ 5	13.9	18.1
316	286	Fuller's	286	+ 6	14.0	18.1
316	286	Fuller Smith & Turner	286	+ 7	14.1	18.1
316	286	Fuller's	286	+ 8	14.2	18.1
316	286	Fuller Smith & Turner	286	+ 9	14.3	18.1
316	286	Fuller's	286	+ 10	14.4	18.1
316	286	Fuller Smith & Turner	286	+ 11	14.5	18.1
316	286	Fuller's	286	+ 12	14.6	18.1
316	286	Fuller Smith & Turner	286	+ 13	14.7	18.1
316	286	Fuller's	286	+ 14	14.8	18.1
316	286	Fuller Smith & Turner	286	+ 15	14.9	18.1
316	286	Fuller's	286	+ 16	15.0	18.1
316	286	Fuller Smith & Turner	286	+ 17	15.1	18.1
316	286	Fuller's	286	+ 18	15.2	18.1
316	286	Fuller Smith & Turner	286	+ 19	15.3	18.1
316	286	Fuller's	286	+ 20	15.4	18.1
316	286	Fuller Smith & Turner	286	+ 21	15.5	18.1
316	286	Fuller's	286	+ 22	15.6	18.1
316	286	Fuller Smith & Turner	286	+ 23	15.7	18.1
316	286	Fuller's	286	+ 24	15.8	18.1
316	286	Fuller Smith & Turner	286	+ 25	15.9	18.1
316	286	Fuller's	286	+ 26	16.0	18.1
316	286	Fuller Smith & Turner	286	+ 27	16.1	18.1
316	286	Fuller's	286	+ 28	16.2	18.1
316	286	Fuller Smith & Turner	286	+ 29	16.3	18.1
316	286	Fuller's	286	+ 30	16.4	18.1
316	286	Fuller Smith & Turner	286	+ 31	16.5	18.1
316	286	Fuller's	286	+ 32	16.6	18.1
316	286	Fuller Smith & Turner	286	+ 33	16.7	18.1
316	286	Fuller's	286	+ 34	16.8	18.1
316	286	Fuller Smith & Turner	286	+ 35	16.9	18.1
316	286	Fuller's	286	+ 36	17.0	18.1
316	286	Fuller Smith & Turner	286	+ 37	17.1	18.1
316	286	Fuller's	286	+ 38	17.2	18.1
316	286	Fuller Smith & Turner	286	+ 39	17.3	18.1
316	286	Fuller's	286	+ 40	17.4	18.1
316	286	Fuller Smith & Turner	286	+ 41	17.5	18.1
316	286	Fuller's	286	+ 42	17.6	18.1
316	286	Fuller Smith & Turner	286	+ 43	17.7	18.1
316	286	Fuller's	286	+ 44	17.8	18.1
316	286	Fuller Smith & Turner	286	+ 45	17.9	18.1
316	286	Fuller's	286	+ 46	18.0	18.1
316	286	Fuller Smith & Turner	286	+ 47	18.1	18.1
316	286	Fuller's	286	+ 48	18.2	18.1
316	286	Fuller Smith & Turner	286	+ 49	18.3	18.1
316	286	Fuller's	286	+ 50	18.4	18.1
316	286	Fuller Smith & Turner	286	+ 51	18.5	18.1
316	286	Fuller's	286</			

DirecTV plans to launch satellite service in Europe

BY ERIC REGALY

DIRECTV, the satellite television service ultimately owned by General Motors, plans to launch a digital satellite operation in competition with BSkyB and other media companies in Europe.

DirecTV is looking for European partners and has been trying to find a chief executive to run the European division. Several potential candidates in Britain, including cable company executives, have been interviewed.

Celso Azevedo, the senior vice-president of DirecTV International, the newly formed overseas division of DirecTV, said: "Europe is very important to us. We have been in contact with some potential partners in several countries."

He would not identify the partnership candidates, but said an announcement about the formation of the European service probably would be made within a few months.

DirecTV, based in Los An-

geles, is the fastest-growing digital TV company in the world. BSkyB, 40 per cent owned by News International, owner of *The Times*, uses analogue technology but plans to launch a digital service in a year or so.

DirecTV was launched by Hughes Electronics, the satellite communications and aerospace subsidiary of General Motors, and has about 1.4 million US subscribers. It expects to have three million by the end of the year, with forecasts of ten million by 2000.

AT&T, America's largest long-distance phone company, bought a 2.5 per cent stake in January for \$137.5 million, valuing the company at \$5.5 billion. AT&T has an option to increase its stake to 30 per cent over 5 years, depending on its ability to recruit DirecTV customers.

Subscribers are attracted to the service mainly because of choice. DirecTV offers about 175 digital video and audio channels and, like BSkyB, offers movies, sport, children's shows and pay-per-view.

DirecTV has said it wants to become the "Coca-Cola of digital TV" around the world. With three local partners, it recently launched a South American service called Galaxy Latin America that will compete against a consortium that includes The News Corporation and Telecommunications Inc., the world's largest cable company. It also has formed a partnership in Japan which is scheduled to begin broadcasting in mid-1997.

Mr Azevedo said that DirecTV's ideal European partners would provide programming and marketing expertise. The company, he said, will try to lease space on the Astra or Eutelsat satellites. Failing that, it might lease a satellite from Hughes, its owner.



Alan Jerome plans to build a multi-based business so that the textile firm can ride out future storms

Jerome dresses tartan army

BY FRASER NELSON

CREASE-FREE trousers and *Bronzeheart* tartan waistcoats are among the designs that have sustained the return to profitability at S Jerome & Sons, the textile group that yesterday reported a 31 per cent rise in pre-tax profits to £951,000 in 1995. The West Yorkshire company

has capitalised on overseas demand for tartan, increasing exports by 30 per cent to account for 27 per cent of its turnover. Jerome's growth is stabilising from last year's profit recovery of 75 per cent. It has doubled the capacity of its weaving machines in Shipley and bought West Yorkshire Weavers, which contributed £100,000 in the first six months. Alan

Jerome, the chairman, said the group was aiming for security, not market dominance. "In the textile business, sales are cyclical — you can't rely on the popularity of any one product. Our strategy is to build a multi-based business so in future, we can ride the storms."

Earnings were up 1.2p to 7.7p. The dividend rises to 2.5p (0.5p), with a final 1.5p.

Chrysler speeds to a record

FROM RICHARD THOMSON
IN NEW YORK

CHRYSLER, America's third largest motor company, made record profits in the first quarter of this year after earnings more than doubled to over \$1 billion.

The result shows that demand among US consumers has remained strong despite dire predictions by economists earlier this year that the economy was slowing. Chrysler said its figures were particularly good in view of the long harsh winter in most parts of the US, that many thought would depress car sales.

Revenues rose 10 per cent over the same period last year to \$15 billion, while profit soared from \$495 to just over \$1 billion.

The result will strengthen Chrysler's hand against Kirk Kerkorian, the corporate raider who owns nearly 15 per cent of the company and has been pressing for sweeping management changes and a cash payout to investors.

Sidlaw to close factory

BAe deal opens up Asia Pacific

FROM RACHEL BRIDGE
IN SYDNEY

SIDLAW GROUP, the oil services and packaging company, is to close a factory at Washington, Tyne and Wear, with the loss of about 90 jobs. The factory, which supplies packaging for the food sector, incurred losses of more than £1 million in the six months to March 31. Closure costs were estimated at £2.2 million.

EBRD pact

The European Bank for Reconstruction and Development yesterday ended its two-day annual meeting in Sofia which was highlighted by agreement to double its capital. Jacques de Larosière, president, said the increase was "crucial".

Car sales up

Car sales in western Europe rose by 3.1 per cent in March, compared with March 1995, according to provisional figures from the European association of manufacturers. Car sales totalled 1.275 million last month, compared with 1.238 a year earlier.

Whisky cheer

Exports of Scotch whisky rose 4 per cent to £2.276 billion in 1995 from £2.191 billion in the previous year. European Union exports, which account for almost 40 per cent of total exports, rose 2 per cent to £872 million.

THE TIMES

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Guardian

Guardian Royal Exchange Group

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■ MUSIC

Violinist turned humanitarian: Lord Menuhin reflects on his new tasks as he approaches 80



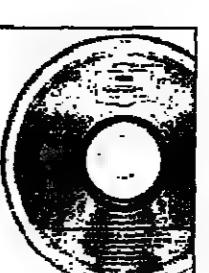
■ YOUNG ARTS

Children in Southwark prepare the way for the reconstructed Globe with weeks of Elizabethan fun

THE TIMES
ARTS

■ TOMORROW

Reviews of all the new films, including Bruce Willis in Terry Gilliam's *Twelve Monkeys*



■ TOMORROW
Our unrivalled guide to the best new videos and classical recordings moves to Thursday

Yehudi Menuhin will be 80 next Monday. Here he talks about his work; and we report on a new documentary portrait

Plenty of time to change the world

Joanna Pitman finds Menuhin's humanitarian passions undimmed

It is fascinating and impressive, but most of all heartening, to see Lord Menuhin turning 80 in a spirit of expectation that several decades of activity are yet to come. It is the result of an irrepressible mind that is still darting around, fizzing with ideas, schemes and causes which he earnestly believes will make the world a better place. The fact that his mother, just turned 100, is alive and kicking in San Francisco, and still proudly monitoring her son's prodigious achievements, may explain the impression that Menuhin is becoming ever more youthful.

Music remains his core passion, but he has long ago taken his music beyond its traditional parameters in his quest to create a more positive, inspired and courteous world. "I have numerous other projects on the go, schemes to arrange, fundamental changes to be made to society. We live in a crime-producing civilisation. If there are terrorists, it is because we have produced them. If there are drug-crazed children, it is because we have not given them inspiration. So many things can be improved with simple but carefully judged effort. I have a lot to do but I think I am achieving something already."

Even at 80, his face and body are as light, supple and mobile as his mind. As he speaks, the gentle bird-like profile turns and dips, his quick avian eyes darting about in search of new challenges, new solutions.

His achievements so far are impressive indeed. Live Music Now!, one of his earliest projects, was founded 22 years

ago to give talented young musicians performing experience before people who would not normally have access to live music: children with special needs, adults with learning difficulties, elderly people, prison inmates.

"LMN organises almost 2,000 concerts a year," he says. "It is gratifying to see that joy can be awakened even for the most withdrawn or depressed among us. The inspiration for the project came from my travels in Germany immediately after the war when I played for audiences in newly liberated camps. In many cases, the music was their first contact with civilisation. I was seeing these people's strengths and weaknesses and for the first time I saw what music could do for them. It was an experience which changed and inspired me."

MUS-E is another project designed to inspire the underprivileged. Founded in 1994, this one focuses on introducing teaching based on music and dancing to primary schools across Europe in order to channel the energies of children with violent or unhappy home environments. "My thesis is that the only antidote to crime is to introduce an atmosphere of hope, health, trust and joy with music. This can be done very simply by performing dancing and singing every day in violent schools. In a short time it is amazing how the hate is transformed."

Not satisfied with LMN and MUS-E (and of course the International Menuhin Academy, the Yehudi Menuhin School, and the International Yehudi Menuhin Foundation), the indefatigable Menu-

hin last year dreamt up the Mozart Fund. This seeks to change international copyright law so that royalties are paid on works now in the public domain. The revenue would be used for charity projects for the prevention of human, environmental and cultural disasters. "My thesis is that the Mozart Fund would include support for the struggle to prevent torture, action to save the Alpine environment, the work of the Red Cross, the fight against leprosy, and joy with music. This can be done very simply by performing dancing and singing every day in violent schools. In a short time it is amazing how the hate is transformed."

Talking to Menuhin and encountering his sometimes extraordinary schemes for the betterment of our world, one becomes steadily more aware that the astonishingly auto-didactic approach of the man is the result of the erratic self-education of the boy. By 1927, when Menuhin had turned ten, he had spent less than a day at school.

Orthodox schooling was im-

possible as he was spending most of his life on the road performing in the world's concert halls. His father had given up his job to accompany him and the young Menuhin was earning a living in his place to support the family. "I have had no academic training at all. Only my own reading, philosophy, thought, and a certain breadth of experience. In a way, my lack of formal education means that I can distance myself from details and take a broader view of problems that face us."

The result is a staggering array of ideas. A "Parliament of Cultures" is one of his latest projects. "This will be a pipeline into Brussels — neither bureaucratic nor political — which will give a voice to each national and regional culture, including nomadic peoples. It will give them a forum in which they can express their grievances on any issue."

Menuhin has a solution to the Irish problem, involving the meeting of widows from both sides. He has a scheme for a transnational system to provide credits in welfare, health, education and culture for everybody. He supports alternative medicine (the one issue that tempted this life peer to attend a House of Lords debate), he practises yoga (he once stood on his head for the Queen, and did it again after a Berlin Philharmonic centenary concert), he has ideas for combating BSE, he still travels for eight months each year and he lends his name to 400 charities.

Oh, and he has recently been working on a blueprint for changing party political democracies into less combative, more constructive, forces for good. What a place the world would be if we all had centenarian mothers.

Menuhin himself guides us through an extraordinary, nomadic life that, as he admits, has never known hardship, suffered professional setback or been touched by the cat-

ing of the enslaved in displaced people's camps, of soldiers, lonely and wounded in hospital, of the victims of totalitarian states, of his own when his first marriage collapsed.

The life, however, is almost incidental. What the film brings out is the playing that shaped each chapter in this memoir: the infinitely varied vibrato, the elegant ease, the originality of phrasing and the sometimes savage accents. It is the music that soars out of these archives — great long stretches of it, some dating back to 1943, enough to make us understand why Menuhin, his talent almost suffocated by subsequent fame, so captured the reliable machine that never went wrong.

● Yehudi Menuhin: *The Violin of the Century*, from *La Sept/Arte television and EMI Classics*, is distributed by Ideale Audience



Even at 80, Menuhin's face and body are as light, supple and mobile as his mind*

Where there's Will

Hard by the Thames, schoolchildren are discovering Shakespeare their own way. Hilary Finch reports

The Globe Theatre, originally built in 1599 and destroyed by fire in 1613, is fast approaching its official reopening. The thatch is complete, the seating in place, and Shakespeare's great "Wooden O" is expanding to its full circumference. On Saturday, three days before Shakespeare's official birthday, the London borough of Southwark will celebrate with a "sonnet walk": a masque outside the Globe at 2pm, and a cathedral service at 6pm.

Meanwhile, 19 Southwark schools have been recreating that environment in six weeks of Elizabethan Fairs, held in collaboration with members of the Globe Education Centre.

In the school hall of Robert

Browning Primary in Walworth, a trumpeter heralds the mummers' play. A 10-year-old St George faces an 11-year-old black-cloaked Murderer. A quack doctor revives the saint and everyone cavorts in a round dance to a tape of *Greensleeves*.

Now the dance becomes

more sophisticated. A very tall, very thin bearded jester leads a troupe of children in an *Estatampie*, a *Bransle* and a *Sellinger's Round*. The jester is Adrian Lucas, assistant school-keeper, who also happens to be a member of the Paladins of Chivalry, a re-enactment society which specialises in medieval tournaments. He's taught the children all the right steps, and they foot it feisty.

Meanwhile, a group of real thespians lurks outside the door. This is the Globe company in the making. They burst in. "Our theatre burnt down and we had to go touring," one shouts. "Not much fun. But soon we'll be able to return to the Globe,

and we need your help to get a play ready! We need dancers for our sheep-shearing fair. But look out for pickpockets!" Cue for Act IV, Scene 4 of *The Winter's Tale*. That snap-

per-up of unconsidered trifles has soon pinched a school scarf. A shepherd strikes up the school-keeper's dances. Ballads are sold. The troupe dances out with the children.

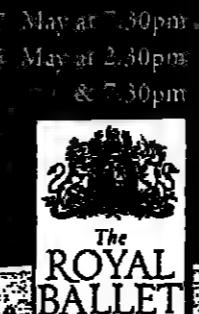
Alastair Tallon, education development manager at the Globe, watches as six years of Globe Education's projects bring Southwark to new life. "We want the Globe to be a catalyst for activities and work in the borough," he says. "Going to the theatre in Shakespeare's day was about popular culture and entertainment. We want to change people's perceptions about what happens in theatre and what happens in schools."

"A project like this encourages teachers to teach Shakespeare way beyond the appallingly unimaginative Key Stage tests — to draw and build on real responses from the children."

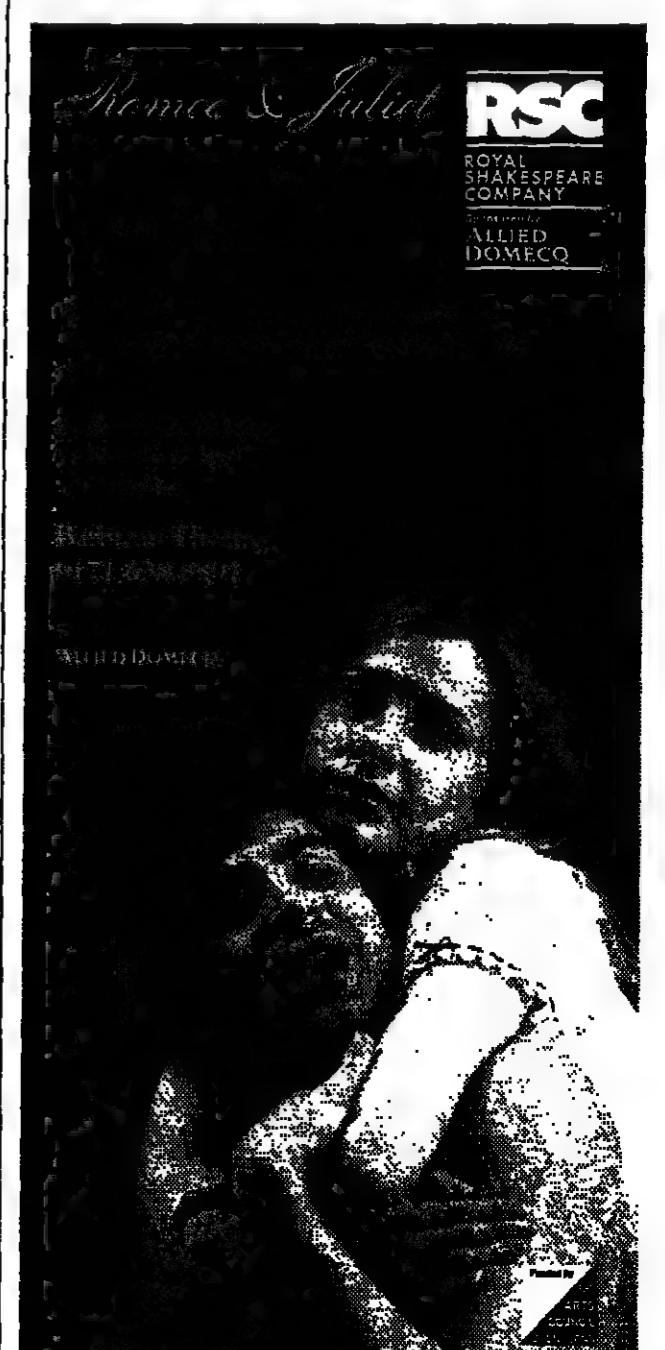
Tesco shoppers in the Old Kent Road, Elephant & Castle Metro and Surrey Quays will be able to read all about it in a special newspaper written by the children and distributed free at the checkouts on Shakespeare's birthday.

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THE TIMES WEDNESDAY APRIL 17 1996



■ OPERA

Medea event: Cherubini's great classical tragedy is superbly staged by Opera North in Leeds



■ DANCE

The genius of Frederick Ashton is celebrated at Covent Garden in an evening of mixed fortunes

THE TIMES ARTS



■ CONCERTS

John Cage is featured as the "prepared piano" makes its comeback at the Purcell Room



■ POP

Seattle grungers, but sane? Can the Presidents of the United States of America be for real?

A woman scorned is a marvel

OPERA: In Leeds, Rodney Milnes sees Josephine Barstow produce a performance of rare power as Medea

It is turning out to be a good month for classical tragedy filtered through 18th-century operatic sensibilities: first Gluck's *Alceste* from Scottish Opera, and now Cherubini's *Medée* at the Grand, in Leeds. Both are — dread word — "important" operas, and both are great operas, but their greatness is hard to convey to modern audiences. Scottish Opera didn't quite make it; Opera North's *Medea* is in most respects an absolute knockout.

Medea was premiered in Paris in 1774, in the cultural fallout from the French Revolution. It was perfectly acceptable for a serious opera to include spoken dialogue. This was less acceptable in the 19th century, and *Medea* survived in a hideously corrupt version with bad German recitative written 60 years later: translated into Italian, it became a vehicle for such scenery-chewers as Callas. Only in recent decades has the original French score been revived (but never recorded), often with non-French Medeas struggling with the words as best they could: Covent Garden's stab at the opera seven years ago was not generally accounted a success.

So what on earth do you do with so endlessly tricky a piece? Easy: you perform it in a superb new English translation by Kenneth McLeish and cast Josephine Barstow as Medea. Then you add the conductor Paul Daniel, the producer Phyllida Lloyd and the tenor Thomas Randle, who struck such sparks off each other in Opera North's *Gloriana*, and sit back as the brew bubbles to overflowing.

The goalposts have, of course, been moved since 1774. Then, Medea's homicidal tendencies — she's a woman, for heaven's sake — would have been prominently abnormal and shocking; today, when Alan Bennett has isolated "the problem of the first wife" when writing about a rather different marriage (Orton and Halliwell), it seems less abnormal. Medea has made Jason; she's stolen the Golden Fleece for him; done the odd murder to help him on his way, and now he's trading her in for a younger, socially more advanta-

Randle heroically plays Jason as the rat he is, and gets by in hugely demanding vocal writing. Nicola Sharkey (Dirce, the younger媒人) has to negotiate Constanze-style coloratura, and manages it neatly while still doing justice to McLeish's words. Norman Bailey is the stuffy King, and Anne Wilkins sings Medea's Nurse, making much of her lovely aria with bassoon obbligato.

Beethoven greatly admired Cherubini, and, as conducted by Daniel, this *Medea* could well have been a long-lost Beethoven opera.

Tense, febrile, full of suspense, the music bounded out of the pit and gripped the audience with its truly revolutionary inventiveness. And Daniel paced it perfectly, welding potentially dodgy transitions between music, spoken word and *mélodrama* into a perfectly coherent dramatic whole. Orchestra and chorus supported him with a will. Cherubini has truly been reborn in Leeds.

Josephine Barstow as Medea: "Her cast-iron technique sees her safely through the notes, and she speaks the text with a vibrant conviction that should be the envy of many a straight actress"

POP: The home of gloomy grunge sends us the Mount Rushmore of happy rock; the finer points of 'nuevo flamenco'

Monster raving loony party

The Presidents of the USA
Astoria, WC2

simply want to have a good time.

A trio mustering just five guitar strings between them — Chris Balfe plays a two-stringed "basitar", Dave Dederer plays a three-stringed "guitarra" and Jason Finn plays a "no-string" drum-kit — the Presidents took to the Astoria stage wearing bright shirts and baggy shorts. Opening with a storming version of the MC5's *Kick Out the Jams* that inspired immediate

With sales of their eponymous debut album past the two-million mark in America, and a second hit single, *Peaches*, slamming into the British charts this week, they have clearly struck a major chord with music-lovers who have heard enough about the worries of the world and now

and delirious pandemonium in the rammed-full, 2,000-capacity venue, they proceeded to play a set of high-energy rock'n'roll with a unique, goofball spin that was impossible to dislike.

The high point of a brisk, varied and supremely entertaining show was the sudden segue from the quirky *Naked and Famous* into a whiplash version of their first British hit, *Lump*. As wave after wave of crowd surfers broke against the wall of security men at the foot of the stage, the band's manifesto came across loud and clear. The Presidents rock.

DAVID SINCLAIR

United nations

Paco de Lucia
Festival Hall

electric bass to his backing group seems to have provoked almost as much consternation as the young Bob Dylan's defection to the electric guitar.

All of which might lead you to expect to expect something akin to the pop hooks and disco beat of crowd pleasers such as the Gipsy Kings. Well, Lucia does make use of a nimble light show in the darkened auditorium, but the

overall approach was relatively austere, especially in a first half largely given over to solo pieces and extended duets.

Later, de Lucia deployed his full complement of guitars, bass and percussion supplemented by the muezzin-like vocals of his brother Pepa and the keening saxophone of Jorge Pardo. The compositions took on a less frenetic character, the jagged, staccato attack balanced by gently rippling arpeggios.

This was not the tourist version of flamenco. Whenever the tall, charismatic figure of Joaquin Grilo took the centre of the stage it was for displays that were hypnotic, not histrionic. The dance was not allowed to upstage the music.

CLIVE DAVIS

Out of the Cage

CONCERT
Ryder/Stowe
Purcell Room

satisfying, especially in Ryder's virtuoso playing of *Daughters of the Lonesome Isle*: the dusky timbres of the prepared piano still work their spell.

Stowe sang the haunting vocalise of *A Flower* in pure voice, though each phrase was interestingly coloured. She was communicative in the strange lyrics of *Eight Whiskies*, and vivid in *The Wonderful Widow of Eighteen Springs* and *Nowt Upon Nacht*, settings from *Finnigan's Wake*.

The same James Joyce work has inspired a new piano piece by the young Irish composer

Deirdre Gribbin, *Waking in Laughtears*, given its premiere here. The opposite emotions of the title are powerfully evoked in richly textured music.

Much more limited in their expression were the pieces by Jeremy Peyton-Jones, Kamilla Tsepkoletko and Giancinto Scelsi. The two Peyton-Jones numbers amounted to little more than dreary mood music, and Tsepkoletko's *Eve-ning Patient* tested time. The onomatopoeic vocal sounds devised by Scelsi in *Ogloudoglou* and *CKKC* lack the rich variety of Berio's comparable *Sequenza III*.

The final work, Graham Fitkin's neo-Romantic *Nasz*, is an impressive setting of lines from Gabriel García Márquez's *Chronicle of a Death Foretold*, the grim tale matched in music that evokes harsh heat and dust. Stowe's soprano soared vibrantly right to the end of this duo's demanding programme.

JOHN ALLISON

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Salary £15-16,000

The post will involve a range of support roles including preparation of final reports and presentation materials for clients; administration of REGEN.NET, an E-mail service for public/private partnerships throughout the UK; the preparation of training materials and organisation of events in association with clients; assistance with European marketing; and general team administration support.

If you are experienced in Word 6.0 and quality report production, can demonstrate a good telephone manner and have had experience in working for a team, we would like to hear from you. A minimum of 3 years relevant work experience and a qualification in office management/business administration is desirable. Experience in working French would be an advantage but is not essential.

If you are looking for the opportunity please send your CV and any supporting documentation to Virginia Dore Byrne, EDAW Limited, 50/52 Gray's Inn Road, London, WC1X 8NH. Tel: 0171 404 6350

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Please contact Melinda Marks or Jane Edwards.

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is your ability to communicate easily with anyone

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West End SW1 c£18,000

Are you a bright, confident individual who would like to join a growing company in the field of Investor Relations and Stockbroking? We require a team player to join us. Computer experience (Macintosh) and good communication skills are essential. Job includes data research and management, client contact, travel arrangements and all office administration. Would suit somebody with a bright outgoing personality who enjoys a busy, varied working environment. Stockbroking experience and/or SFA registration would be preferable but not obligatory. Please fax CV directly to Sarah Walker on (0171) 930 2233 or mail to Club Capital Ltd, 4th Floor, 17 Waterloo Place, London SW1Y 4AR. No agencies.

Please apply in writing together with CV:
The Managing Director,
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Knowledge of Parliament an advantage. Office management skills & computer literacy essential. Competitive salary according to experience.

Send CV to Box No 5111.
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TEAM SECRETARY
£16,500 + Bens WC2

Previous Chartered Accountant requires an enthusiastic 2nd jobber with minimum 2 years' experience and additional qualification. You will be a committed team player who enjoys the challenge of hard work and occasional long hours. PowerPoint, W4W & 50 wpm+ essential. Call Secretaries for immediate interview.

Tel 0171 287 6660 Fax 0171 494 4652

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PA/SECRETARY ST JAMES'S

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The Managing Director,
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Company Secretary

A super opportunity for a PA/Secretary who is currently studying or wishes to study for her ICSA exams. You will be as involved as you want to be - the more you can do to assist the better. You must also be prepared to get through a lot of typing when necessary.

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TEAM SECRETARY
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I need somebody who is good natured with total integrity, completely trustworthy and educated to 'A' level standard. Good track record essential. Word for Windows, numeracy, Pitman S/H 100wpm required. Aged 26-36.

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Running a stately business

Steve Ovett has added a thriving cottage industry to his historical home, reports Rachel Kelly

On paper, the profit looks huge. Steve Ovett, the Olympic gold medal-winner, and his wife, Rachel, are asking £1.3 million for Kinmount House, the Scottish stately home they bought eight years ago for £750,000.

But the figure disguises the considerable sum the Overts have spent restoring the house in the Borders. Local agents estimate that they may have spent about £300,000 doing up the house and creating eight holiday cottages to rent. Mrs Overt said that the restoration and conversion had involved "huge time and effort. A massive amount of love has gone into turning this house into what it is now."

In the process, the couple have transformed Kinmount House, built near Annan, Dumfriesshire, in 1812 for the Marquess of Queensberry.

A servants' hall has been converted to an indoor swimming pool and the old bakehouse is now a gym and games room. The Overts have installed new plumbing, new central heating and rewired the house. A sense of the scale of the repairs is hinted at by the fact that the house had previously not been lived in for

The Overts bought the house from an absentee Australian who had owned it for four years. For most of this century, the house was owned by the Birkbeck family, still neighbours of the Overts and owners of the Kilmount estate. The Marquess of Queensberry sold the house to Edward Brooke of nearby Hoddam Castle in 1893. His granddaughter, Sarah, now Mrs Edward Birkbeck, still owns the estate.

The house stands in 13 acres of formal gardens with lawns, shrubberies and an Italian garden with a summerhouse. The designer must have had autumn in mind — then, the colours of the great oak and beech trees and monster conifers are reflected in the two lakes to spectacular effect.

The house was built by John

A black and white photograph showing a man and a woman sitting on a grassy lawn in front of a large, ornate house. The man, Steve Quitt, is wearing a dark t-shirt and light-colored pants, sitting with his legs crossed. The woman, Rachel Quitt, is wearing a light-colored top and dark pants, sitting next to him. To the left, a large dog lies on the grass. The house behind them is a multi-story building with intricate stonework, multiple gables, and decorative finials. The sky is overcast.

Gold-medal buy: Kinmount House, the Border home of Steve and Rachel Ovett, was built in 1812 for the Marquess of Queensberry. It is now on sale for £1.3 million

Douglas, the 6th Marquess. One of the famous Border families and a dynasty of raiders, the Douglases' association with the young man led to his imprisonment.

The estate goes back to the 12th century, and may even have given its name to Kinmont Willie, an outrageously bold cattle thief whose 16th-century escapades took the fancy of balladeers.

Queensberry seat, Keinehead House, at the turn of the 18th century. John Douglas's descendant, the 9th Marquess of Queensberry, is best remembered for inaugurating boxing's Queensberry rules, which converted the sport from brutal prize fighting into one demanding

rather spoilt by some top-heavy balustrading added at the turn of the century. There is also an aviary and a courtyard which the Ovetts have developed into their holiday cottages.

A massive amount of love, time and effort has gone into this house'

This has been their trump card. There is everything a family could want, down to high-chairs and electric blankets, tumble dryers and hairdryers. Prices vary, depending on dates and length of stay, but start at £195 a week for two people.

The cottages are let by Country Cottages in Scotland. They are

among the most successful self-catering cottages in Scotland, with 86 per cent occupancy, and undisclosed profits on annual turnover of £100,000 pay for the running of the house.

However, the time has come to sell. The Ovens wish for a smaller house to enable the whole family to do more travelling together. Mrs Overt says: "My husband spends much time abroad commentating on sporting events for American television, but travelling is difficult when you are leaving behind such a large house."

Sport, after his 1980 Olympic gold triumph in Moscow.

The family intend to stay in the area, but if the record of other recent Scottish sales is anything to go by, their move may be slow to materialise. Eilean Aigas, near Inverness, a romantic island kingdom, took 18 months to sell. The Fraser family eventually sold the house at the end of 1994, having dropped the guide price from

Kames Castle, on the Isle of Bute, is on sale with 20 acres and seven letting units for offers of more than £520,000 with Knight Frank. It has been on the market for a year.

● **Kinmouni** is for sale through the Edinburgh office of Savills (£131-25,956).

Land prices cut by beef scare

**Sales of farms
have dropped
dramatically**

Farmers in western and n

Hern Britain could see prices of grazing land for beef fall by 50 per cent after concern about "mad cow" disease. The Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors (RICS) expects prices to drop back from the current price of £2,000 an acre to

The exact acreage affected is uncertain, as statistics are unavailable, but Martin Lowry, the RICS's rural property spokesman, says it is a regional problem. "The mainly arable south and east of the country will see less of a problem.

"For several years, smaller farmers have been moving out of dairy farming and into raising beef cattle. This has fitted in nicely with environmental pressures as beef grazing uses the kind of small landscapes which we all like to see in the countryside. There is no ready alternative for beef farmers, so if the problem continues the countryside could be facing a difficult future."

Mr Lowry says the crisis has had no effect on the price of organic farms, but agents confirmed that numbers of farm sales had fallen off. Nicholas Hextall, director of John D. Wood's Oxford office, says that farmers are waiting before committing themselves to farm sales.

The expected fall in land values follows an extraordinary boom in prices over the past two years, thanks to European subsidies and a shortage of land. Savills reports that the average value of land with vacant possession rose by 50 per cent in the first half of 1995.

RACHEL KELLY

Brown waits for specialist view of Ferguson injury

By KEVIN McCARRA

CRAIG BROWN, the Scotland manager, named Duncan Ferguson in his squad for the international in Denmark next Wednesday, but knows that an operation may rule the Everton forward out of the European championship finals in June.

The club is to have the player examined by a specialist this morning. Joe Royle, the Everton manager, intended that Ferguson should play in last night's fixture against Liverpool, so that his groin strain would be at its most severe when examined. Of late, the Scot has barely been able to train between matches.

Since moving to Goodison Park, he has had two hernia operations, but the lingering

difficulties leave open the possibility of further surgery. The specialist will determine whether he is merely being affected by scar tissue in that area, which would allow him to continue playing, or whether the scalpel will have to be wielded once more.

"If an operation is needed, we will have to forget about him," Brown said. That, in itself, might not seem a ruinous turn of events, since Ferguson has not scored on any of his five international appearances, but the loss of the forward would strike at an area of the squad where resources are limited.

Brown had once envisaged that Ferguson would be paired in attack with Scott Booth, and the Aberdeen forward scored

in four consecutive matches for Scotland at Hampden last season. Since then, however, he too has suffered from recurrent groin strains.

The Scotland manager has now named Booth only in the squad for the B game with Denmark on Tuesday. Brown explained that he sees little point in including Booth in the main party at a time when he is still recovering from injury and might only have a limited role in the A fixture. "We need to get him a game," observed the manager. "He has been exceptional in the past, but we want to see him playing and proving he is wholly fit."

Once he has stopped brooding over his forwards, there is only continuity for Brown to ponder. Even Alan McLaren, the Rangers defender, who may require minor surgery on his knee after the Tennents Scottish Cup final, should only miss training for a week.

The under-21 side has reached the semi-finals of their European championship, but Brown is not minded to disrupt his plans by promoting them to the full squad. Instead, Scott Marshall, Jackie McNamara and Stephen Glass will have to be content with places in the B squad.

Brown is virtually certain of

a place in the A team.

Simon Grayson (Colts), C Bailey (Colts), G Calderwood (Tottenham Hotspur), J Colins (Colts), D Ferguson (Everton), K Gallacher (Stadium Rovers), S Gordon (Colts), J Hart (Colts), G Hendry (Stadium Rovers), J Leighton (Hibernian), G McAllister (Colts), D McCall (Rangers), A McDonald (Colts), S McInally (Aberdeen), T McKinlay (Colts), W McNaughton (Stadium Rovers), A McNamee (Rangers), P McLean (Colts), J Spencer (Colts), S Stewart (Colts), C Tait (Colts), G Turner (Colts), G Walker (Colts), G Williams (Colts).

SCOTLAND: B: S Booth (Aberdeen), C Cameron (Heart of Midlothian), G Durie (Rangers), E Jeay (Aberdeen), S Horne (Colts), J James (Colts), G Jones (Colts), G Kinnear (Colts), J McAllister (Colts), J McNamee (Colts), J McNaughton (Colts), A McDonald (Colts), S McInally (Aberdeen), T McKinlay (Colts), W McNaughton (Stadium Rovers), A McNamee (Rangers), P McLean (Colts), J Spencer (Colts), G Turner (Colts), G Walker (Colts), G Williams (Colts).

Wales: D. Edwards (Aberdeen), M. Evans (Colts), M. Whittaker (Colts), M. Williams (Colts).

IRELAND: D. Keane (Colts), J. Quinn (Colts), M. Quinn (Colts), M. Whittaker (Colts), M. Williams (Colts).

SCOTLAND: B: S Booth (Aberdeen), C Cameron (Heart of Midlothian), G Durie (Rangers), E Jeay (Aberdeen), S Horne (Colts), J James (Colts), G Jones (Colts), G Kinnear (Colts), J McAllister (Colts), J McNamee (Colts), J McNaughton (Colts), A McDonald (Colts), S McInally (Aberdeen), T McKinlay (Colts), W McNaughton (Stadium Rovers), A McNamee (Rangers), P McLean (Colts), J Spencer (Colts), G Turner (Colts), G Walker (Colts), G Williams (Colts).

Waddle rejects offer of one-year contract

CHRIS WADDLE, the former England football international, has rejected the offer of a new one-year playing contract by Sheffield Wednesday and is available for transfer at a price of £250,000.

"I have had a talk with the manager [David Pleat] and it was all very friendly," he said. "The offer of a year's contract was as a player, but it was made clear I am no longer regarded as a regular in the team. I want to be either playing regularly or doing a job as a player-coach or as a player-manager, so we agreed it would be best if I was made available."

Waddle has been on the substitutes' bench for Wednesday's past three matches, his latest start being at Aston Villa on March 6.

Alan Moore, the Middlesbrough midfield player, has been called into the Republic of Ireland squad for the international against the Czech Republic in Prague next week. He replaces Keith O'Neill, of Norwich City, who has had to withdraw because of a ligament injury.

Also missing will be John Aldridge, who fears he could aggravate an injury that would restrict his efforts to keep Tranmere Rovers, where he has taken over as player-manager, in the first division.

Jimmy Nicholl, the Millwall manager, is considering a return to active duty at the age of 39. The former Manchester United and Northern Ireland defender may select himself when his club also struggling to avoid relegation from the first division, saw the team attempt a more flowing style of football, but the experiment ended with a 2-0 defeat.

Brown is virtually certain of

the composition of the party he will take to England this summer, but its quality is still in doubt. Scotland's last away match, in Sweden in the autumn, saw the team attempt a more flowing style of football, but the experiment ended with a 2-0 defeat.

The Jameses, playing in this company for the first time,

took the lead against the holders at the second hole and never surrendered it, eventually winning by 4 and 3. The Nivens, in the words of the father, "could not repeat the miracles of last year".

The Jameses are formidable

newcomers: Robbie, in his other guise the secretary of the Walton Heath club, playing off six, and Mark, recently returned from a scholarship in the United States, a scratch golfer. The younger Niven, David, plays off three, so the contest was notable for some class acts.

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Britain facing testing finale

FROM SYDNEY FRISKIN
IN ATLANTA

Hudson leads charge

SOUTH Africa beat Pakistan by eight wickets yesterday to book their place in the final of the Sharjah Cup on Friday. After Pakistan were dismissed for 188 in 45 overs, opener Andrew Hudson ensured South Africa's victory, hitting 93 not out from 85 balls in 33.1 overs, with Gary Kirsten contributing 32 and Pat Symcox 35. South Africa's opponents in the final of the three-nation tournament will be decided today, when they take on India.

West Indies have named three uncapped players in a 13-man squad to face New Zealand in the first Test in Bridgetown starting on Friday. Robert Samuels, 25, a left-handed batsman, the Barbadian fast bowler, Patterson Thompson, 24, and Roland Holder, 28, who has played in 25 one-day internationals, are the newcomers.

SQUADS: C. A. Walsh (captain), S. L. Campbell, R. Samuels, P. V. Patterson, R. Holder, J.C. Adams, C. D. Brown, I.R. Bishop, C.E.L. Ambrose, R. Chetan, P. Thompson.

Nickle in clear

Rugby league: Sonny Nickle, Bradford Bulls' Great Britain forward, has been cleared to play in the Silk Cut Challenge Cup final at Wembley on Saturday week. Nickle was put on report for allegedly kicking out at an opponent in the defeat at St Helens last Sunday, but a Rugby Football League panel decided that he had no case to answer.

Sampras returns

Tennis: Pete Sampras, the world No 1, will return to defend his Stella Artois grass-court title at Queen's Club from June 10 to 16. Former champions Boris Becker and Michael Stich will also be taking part, along with Greg Rusedski and Tim Henman, rivals for the domestic No 1 ranking.

Ainslie third

Sailing: Ben Ainslie, 19, Britain's youngest Olympic team member, finished third in the Laser world championships off Cape Town yesterday, despite being disqualified in one race because his clothing was found to be over the permitted weight.

Nivens surrender golf crown

By JOHN HENNESSY

PERHAPS it was not quite Faldo v Norman, but there is still a place for the Nivens v the Jameses in the golfing scheme of things. They met yesterday in the first round of the Father and Son tournament, at West Hill Golf Club, near Woking.

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took the lead against the holders at the second hole and never surrendered it, eventually winning by 4 and 3. The Nivens, in the words of the father, "could not repeat the miracles of last year".

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The Jameses are formidable

Skelton in mood for World Cup repeat

FROM JENNY MACARTHUR IN GENEVA

NICK SKELTON will attempt to win the showjumping Volvo World Cup on Dollar Girl for the second successive year here this week. The three-part competition, the toughest and richest indoor event in the sport, begins today in the Palexpo Arena. Forty riders will compete for prize-money totalling £500,000.

John Whitaker, one of only two riders to have won the cup in successive years (1990 and 1991), is the only other Briton to have qualified.

Skelton comes here in buoyant mood. Dollar Girl has shown little sign of her 15 years in recent months, with wins in Bordeaux and Moersle, Belgium, in February and third place in the 's-

The Olympic champion, Lüder Beerbaum, of Germany, who is also seeking a second win, is the biggest threat to Simon. The winner of three qualifiers this season, Beerbaum has a formidable choice of horses in Ratinia, his 1993 World Cup winner, Rush On, the winner in Paris last month, and Gaylord, on whom he narrowly beat Skelton in the London qualifier.

Franke Sloothaak, the world champion and a compatriot of Beerbaum, underlined the form of his top horse, Weihaiwei, when finishing third in Dortmund last month. Sloothaak, the runner-up last year and third in 1990, has made no secret of his wish to add this title to his list of successes.

Traditionally, a rider hoping to win the cup needs to finish in the leading ten after the opening speed leg, which will be held tomorrow. In six of the last nine finals, the winner of the opening leg has won the cup. The second leg takes place on Friday evening. The final part, a two-round grand prix, is on Sunday afternoon.

Lucy Thompson, of Ireland, the European three-day event champion, has had to withdraw from the Mitsubishi Motors Badminton Horse Trials next month after her horse, Welton Romance, damaged a foreleg.

Hertogenbosch Grand Prix in Holland last month. "I've done everything I can to prepare her," Skelton said yesterday. "She's in good form and feels well."

While Skelton intends to ride Dollar Girl in all three legs, Whitaker, who has qualified for every final since the event started in 1979, may swap horses. "If Grannusch goes well in the warm-up class, I may use him in the opening speed leg and have Welham for Friday and Sunday," he said.

Though not one of the favourites this year, Whitaker has a realistic chance of success. Grannusch finished fifth in the Gothenburg qualifier a fortnight ago. Welham, now

more acute when he fell second ball in the second runnings, leg-before to the medium pace of Maddy, who had never previously taken a wicket in first-class cricket.

By then, however, two more Oxford batsmen had caught the eye. Whitaker, Leicestershire's new captain, had made them a generous offer with his declaration at 145 for three



Khan drives square of the wicket on his way to 94 for Oxford University against Leicestershire yesterday

Khan earns professionals' respect

BY PAT GIBSON

THE PARKS (final day of three): Oxford University drew with Leicestershire

LEICESTERSHIRE headed back to Grace Road last night with new respect for what county professionals tend to dismiss as "schoolboy cricket". After Oxford University had failed — gloriously — in pursuit of a victory target of 238 in 42 overs.

They may not be the first county to have their eyes opened in the Parks this summer. There is a school of thought that believes that the universities should no longer be granted first-class status, but the batting talent in the Oxford side argues otherwise.

The standard was set yesterday by Gul Khan, 22, a Swansea graduate, who is now doing a course in social studies. His two centuries for Essex 2nd XI last season apparently came too late to convince them that he has a future in county cricket. Their loss may be someone else's gain. Whatever Essex's reser-

vations about his defensive technique, there was no doubt that took him from his overnight 55 to 94, including 12 fours and a six off Mills that, according to the groundsmen's measurement, carried 95 yards over the square-leg boundary.

He was out next ball, caught behind off Mills, and his disappointment was even

more acute when he fell second ball in the second runnings, leg-before to the medium pace of Maddy, who had never previously taken a wicket in first-class cricket.

By then, however, two more Oxford batsmen had caught the eye. Whitaker, Leicestershire's new captain, had made them a generous offer with his declaration at 145 for three

and, despite the early loss of Grimes, brilliantly caught in the guilty by Pierson, the two left-handers, Sutcliffe and Ridley, accepted it with alacrity.

Sutcliffe, who happens to be a Leicestershire player, made 65, containing a six and seven fours, while Ridley, the Australian on a Bradman Scholarship, raced to 104 off 108 balls, hitting four sixes and eight fours and putting so much into one drive of Parsons that he took a chunk out of his bat.

Between them, they put on 147 in 30 overs and so embarrassed Leicestershire that at one stage they were in Sunday League mode with five men on the boundary ropes. Parsons needed all the experience of 18 seasons in the game to apply some kind of brake before he had Sutcliffe caught in the guilty and Oxford still fancied their chances until Ridley sliced a drive against Maddy for Pierson to take his third catch. Only then did the "schoolboys" betray their inexperience, three of them getting themselves run out as they finished 26 runs short with three wickets left.

SCOREBOARD FROM THE PARKS

LEICESTERSHIRE: First innings 229 for 4 dec (B F Smith 122 not out, P A Nixon 100 not out, V J Wells 57)	
Second Innings	
J J Wheeler b Mally	47
J J Macmillan c Jarrett b Mally	17
D L Mally c & b Mally	33
D L Parsons not out	14
Total (8 wkt dec)	145
OXFORD UNIVERSITY: First innings	
J C Gudde c Parsons b Mally	29
J J Suzanne c Wells b Parsons	15
A C Ridley c Nixon b Mally	15
G Khan c Nixon b Mally	94
H S Malik c Nixon b Mally	8
N D Janett not out	8
T N Bainbridge not out	18
T N Bainbridge 4 to 10	14
Total (8 wkt dec)	145
Final (8 wkt dec)	
Fall of WICKETS: 1-38, 2-84, 3-105, 4-106, 5-202, 6-210, 7-212, 8-213, 9-214, 10-215, 11-216, 12-217, 13-218, 14-219, 15-220, 16-221, 17-222, 18-223, 19-224, 20-225, 21-226, 22-227, 23-228, 24-229, 25-230, 26-231, 27-232, 28-233, 29-234, 30-235, 31-236, 32-237, 33-238, 34-239, 35-240, 36-241, 37-242, 38-243, 39-244, 40-245, 41-246, 42-247, 43-248, 44-249, 45-250, 46-251, 47-252, 48-253, 49-254, 50-255, 51-256, 52-257, 53-258, 54-259, 55-260, 56-261, 57-262, 58-263, 59-264, 60-265, 61-266, 62-267, 63-268, 64-269, 65-270, 66-271, 67-272, 68-273, 69-274, 70-275, 71-276, 72-277, 73-278, 74-279, 75-280, 76-281, 77-282, 78-283, 79-284, 80-285, 81-286, 82-287, 83-288, 84-289, 85-290, 86-291, 87-292, 88-293, 89-294, 90-295, 91-296, 92-297, 93-298, 94-299, 95-200, 96-201, 97-202, 98-203, 99-204, 100-205, 101-206, 102-207, 103-208, 104-209, 105-210, 106-211, 107-212, 108-213, 109-214, 110-215, 111-216, 112-217, 113-218, 114-219, 115-220, 116-221, 117-222, 118-223, 119-224, 120-225, 121-226, 122-227, 123-228, 124-229, 125-230, 126-231, 127-232, 128-233, 129-234, 130-235, 131-236, 132-237, 133-238, 134-239, 135-240, 136-241, 137-242, 138-243, 139-244, 140-245, 141-246, 142-247, 143-248, 144-249, 145-250, 146-251, 147-252, 148-253, 149-254, 150-255, 151-256, 152-257, 153-258, 154-259, 155-260, 156-261, 157-262, 158-263, 159-264, 160-265, 161-266, 162-267, 163-268, 164-269, 165-270, 166-271, 167-272, 168-273, 169-274, 170-275, 171-276, 172-277, 173-278, 174-279, 175-280, 176-281, 177-282, 178-283, 179-284, 180-285, 181-286, 182-287, 183-288, 184-289, 185-290, 186-291, 187-292, 188-293, 189-294, 190-295, 191-296, 192-297, 193-298, 194-299, 195-200, 196-201, 197-202, 198-203, 199-204, 200-205, 201-206, 202-207, 203-208, 204-209, 205-210, 206-211, 207-212, 208-213, 209-214, 210-215, 211-216, 212-217, 213-218, 214-219, 215-220, 216-221, 217-222, 218-223, 219-224, 220-225, 221-226, 222-227, 223-228, 224-229, 225-230, 226-231, 227-232, 228-233, 229-234, 230-235, 231-236, 232-237, 233-238, 234-239, 235-240, 236-241, 237-242, 238-243, 239-244, 240-245, 241-246, 242-247, 243-248, 244-249, 245-250, 246-251, 247-252, 248-253, 249-254, 250-255, 251-256, 252-257, 253-258, 254-259, 255-260, 256-261, 257-262, 258-263, 259-264, 260-265, 261-266, 262-267, 263-268, 264-269, 265-270, 266-271, 267-272, 268-273, 269-274, 270-275, 271-276, 272-277, 273-278, 274-279, 275-280, 276-281, 277-282, 278-283, 279-284, 280-285, 281-286, 282-287, 283-288, 284-289, 285-290, 286-291, 287-292, 288-293, 289-294, 290-295, 291-296, 292-297, 293-298, 294-299, 295-200, 296-201, 297-202, 298-203, 299-204, 300-205, 301-206, 302-207, 303-208, 304-209, 305-210, 306-211, 307-212, 308-213, 309-214, 310-215, 311-216, 312-217, 313-218, 314-219, 315-220, 316-221, 317-222, 318-223, 319-224, 320-225, 321-226, 322-227, 323-228, 324-229, 325-230, 326-231, 327-232, 328-233, 329-234, 330-235, 331-236, 332-237, 333-238, 334-239, 335-240, 336-241, 337-242, 338-243, 339-244, 340-245, 341-246, 342-247, 343-248, 344-249, 345-250, 346-251, 347-252, 348-253, 349-254, 350-255, 351-256, 352-257, 353-258, 354-259, 355-260, 356-261, 357-262, 358-263, 359-264, 360-265, 361-266, 362-267, 363-268, 364-269, 365-270, 366-271, 367-272, 368-273, 369-274, 370-275, 371-276, 372-277, 373-278, 374-279, 375-280, 376-281, 377-282, 378-283, 379-284, 380-285, 381-286, 382-287, 383-288, 384-289, 385-290, 386-291, 387-292, 388-293, 389-294, 390-295, 391-296, 392-297, 393-298, 394-299, 395-200, 396-201, 397-202, 398-203, 399-204, 400-205, 401-206, 402-207, 403-208, 404-209, 405-210, 406-211, 407-212, 408-213, 409-214, 410-215, 411-216, 412-217, 413-218, 414-219, 415-220, 416-221, 417-222, 418-223, 419-224, 420-225, 421-226, 422-227, 423-228, 424-229, 425-230, 426-231, 427-232, 428-233, 429-234, 430-235, 431-236, 432-237, 433-238, 434-239, 435-240, 436-241, 437-242, 438-243, 439-244, 440-245, 441-246, 442-247, 443-248, 444-249, 445-250, 446-251, 447-252, 448-253, 449-254, 450-255, 451-256, 452-257, 453-258, 454-259, 455-260, 456-261, 457-262, 458-263, 459-264, 460-265, 461-266, 462-267, 463-268, 464-269, 465-270, 466-271, 467-272, 468-273, 469-274, 470-275, 471-276, 472-277, 473-278, 474-279, 475-280, 476-281, 477-282, 478-283, 479-284, 480-285, 481-286, 482-287, 483-288, 484-289, 485-290, 486-291, 487-292, 488-293, 489-294, 490-295, 491-296, 492-297, 493-298, 494-299, 495-200, 496-201, 497-202, 498-203, 499-204, 500-205, 501-206, 502-207, 503-208, 504-209, 505-210, 506-211, 507-212, 508-213, 509-214, 510-215, 511-216, 512-217, 513-218, 514-219, 515-220, 516-221, 517-222, 518-223, 519-224, 520-225, 521-226, 522-227, 523-228, 524-229, 525-230, 526-231, 527-232, 528-233, 529-234, 530-235, 531-236, 532-237, 533-238, 534-239, 535-240, 536-241, 537-242, 538-243, 539-244, 540-245, 541-246, 542-247, 543-248, 544-249, 545-250, 546-251, 547-252, 548-253, 549-254, 550-255, 551-256, 552-257, 553-258, 554-259, 555-260, 556-261, 557-262, 558-263, 559-264, 560-265, 561-266, 5	

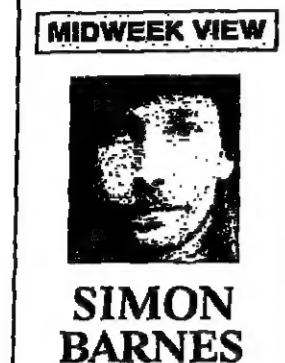
Optical illusion highlighted by Premiership leaders' change of strip

Colour code taxes United's grey matter

I have long sneered at golf, asking how it can be considered a sport when its players wear pink polyester trousers. But the argument is losing its force as football players are now almost as badly turned out as golfers.

Matters came to a head on Saturday with the great Manchester United away-kit drama. Having worn just about every colour in the spectrum over the past half-dozen seasons — black with a yellow trim, yellow-and-green squares, and blue and white — they came up with a real wow. Grey.

Dead sexy, eh? The John Major strip. It was designed not for football but to look cool with jeans. And the footballers hated it. Desperate times require desperate measures. Three goals down at half-time on Saturday, they changed shirts, back to the old blue-and-white job. They still lost, but at least they knew who to blame.



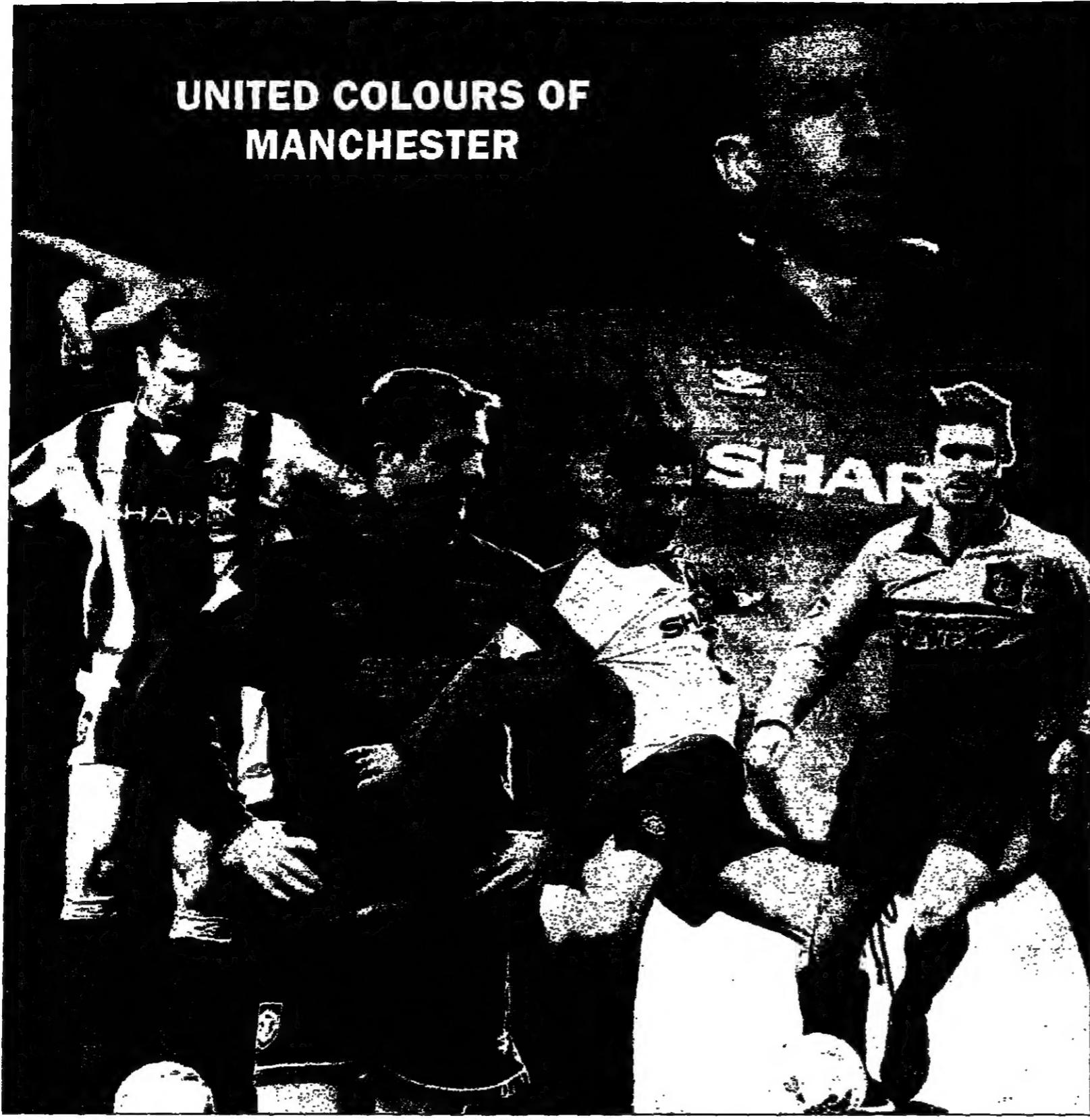
Alex Ferguson, the United manager, had approved the change, in response to Lord-knows-what piteous agonies in the dressing-room. And he, quixotically, attempted to defend the change on purely rational grounds. "You can't pick people out at a distance. Players just blend into the crowd."

The argument falls down when you reflect that Manchester United's huge marketing operation aims to sell replica Manchester United shirts to everyone in the whole world. A match at Old Trafford is played by men in red shirts against a background of 50,000 people, all in red shirts.

If you were to choose a colour purely for its optical benefits, there would be only one choice — white. If I may put on my safari hat (green) for the next couple of paragraphs, I will explain why.

The same rule holds good for football. If you want to be aware of flying colleagues on the edge of your vision, to have what commentators call "great awareness", remember that the whiter they are, the easier they are to spot.

Now the obvious conclusion to draw from all this is that Leeds United are the finest passing side in the FA Premier League, so we are forced to the conclusion that there are



other considerations. Red is the danger signal and it is chosen because it is the easiest to pick up, especially at the edge of your vision. Moral: when you go on safari with me, don't wear white. The game will spot us a mile off.

The same rule holds good for football. If you want to be aware of flying colleagues on the edge of your vision, to have what commentators call "great awareness", remember that the whiter they are, the easier they are to spot.

Now the obvious conclusion to draw from all this is that Leeds United are the finest passing side in the FA Premier League, so we are forced to the conclusion that there are

person is that counts double for all uniforms. In rugby, both codes, players want to give an impression of overwhelming bulk. You would therefore expect rugby players to favour horizontal stripes, to emphasise massive chests and shoulders — an elementary optical illusion — and that is why rugby players wear hooped shirts.

In football, bulk is not as important as height. Vertical stripes make you look taller. Footballers mainly prefer stripes to hoops. Les Ferdinand, bearing down on the goalkeeper on Sunday in black-and-white stripes, looked like a rampaging giant.

Manchester United and Umbro for ripping off the supporters. Agreed. It is all highly distasteful, but hear a plain fact: it is not compulsory to buy a Manchester United shirt. Good old United are bringing out one, not two, but three new strips next season. There will be a new red strip for home games, the blue-and-white will be phased out halfway through, and now the John Major strip will be replaced by a white one.

Good move. Chinese sides

will have no chance against them, the supporters will still look cool in jeans and players will have phenomenal awareness. Don't wear the damn things on safari, that's all.

Everyone whinges about

Hall wins in adversity

DARREN HALL, trying to follow England's bronze in the team event with another medal in the men's singles, overcame flu, some controversial officiating and the most dangerous floater in the draw to reach the second round of the European badminton championships here in Herning, Denmark, yesterday (Richard Eaton writes).

The former European champion, from Essex, who is the No 3 seed in the event, beat Pontus Jantti, the world No 30 from Finland, 15-12, 15-8, but he needed to see the doctor as soon as the contest was over.

"I woke up with a sore

throat, feeling giddy and seeing black stars. I was very worried," Hall said. He found himself 12-6 down in the first game and was struggling when an incident in which he appeared to be wrongly penalised for touching the net with his racket paradoxically worked in his favour. His angry protest earned him a warning from the umpire, but it also acted as extra motivation. "The adrenaline came into my system and I felt better after that," he said.

Anne Gibson, the first Scot to be seeded in the European women's singles, withdrew

with a knee injury.

WORD-WATCHING

Answers from page 44

HARDAIL
(c) American Wild West slang for a mule. "Hardails are mules, usually old ones. So named because they show little response to the skinner's whip. Young mules are shavetails."

NIBUNG
(b) A Malaysian palm, *Oncosperma filamentosa*. "We made very good curry; stewing it with the heart of a nibung or cabbage tree."

KEATING
(a) The proprietary name of an insect powder. An eponym of Thomas Keating, the 19th-century chemist who invented the stuff to make cockroaches turn over and point their legs at the sky. "I am in England. I shall sleep in a clean white bed, and I shall not have to use Keating."

LORAN
(a) An hyperbolic navigation system employing the difference in the times of arrival of pulsed radio signals from different stations. An acronym made from initial letters of long-range navigation. "Get a Loran fix." Peter Spence had his face glued into the rubber eyepiece of the Loran. He counted the jumping electric lines and the long-number blips. He then transferred his eyes to the Loran map."

SOLUTION TO WINNING CHESS MOVE
1 Rxd7+! Rxf7 2 Rg6+! Kg6 3 Qd3+ Kg5 4 Be1+ Kf6 5 Qf5+ and mate follows.

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RADIO CHOICE

Coward's eye view of life

Noel Coward — From His Diaries. Radio 4. 8.05pm.
Among Simon Cadell's bequests to us are happy memories of his beleaguered holiday camp entertainments manager in *HD-DE-HL*. I remember him best, however, for his polished work in Coward plays. He was vocally non-imitative of the master, concentrating instead on his sophisticated spirit. Cadell's mastery of Coward will be heard in this series of readings from his diaries, introduced by Tony Stevage. The first generous helping includes Coward's thoughts on Princess Margaret's wedding (the Queen sowed a good deal); the West's wartime alliance with the Soviet Union (we are going to have a hell of a time with them) and the universal decay of values (there are no standards left but in the *Evening Standard*).

Voces: Thomas Quasthoff. Radio 3. 10.15pm.
A couple of weeks ago, thanks to Radio 3, we were memorably reminded why, in January, a Wigmore Hall audience clapped their hands sore and cheered themselves hoarse, and why the more discerning critics ran out of superlatives. What united audience and critics was the Wigmore Hall debut of the recital's second half, the German baritone. Tonight's recording is of the recital's second half, songs by Wolf and Richard Strauss. Charles Spencer accompanies him. This is a 30-minute recording. The reason we hear only about 25 minutes of actual song is that the rest of the time is taken up by ovation. Peter Daville

RADIO 1
FM Stereo. 6.00am Clive Warren 6.30
Chris Evans 6.00 Simon Mayo 12.00 Jo Whalley, incl at 12.30-12.45
Newswatch 2.00 Nicky Campbell 4.00
Mark Goodier, incl at 5.00
Newswatch 7.00 Evening Session 8.00
Alan Parker — Road Warmer 10.00 Mark Radcliffe 12.00 Wendy Lloyd

RADIO 2
FM Stereo. 6.00am Sarah Kennedy 7.30 Wake Up to Wogan 9.15 Paul for Thought 9.30 Ken Bruce 10.00 Jimmy Young 1.00 Radio 2 Breakfast 3.30 Ed Stewart 5.00 John Dunn 7.00 Jim Lloyd with Folk on 8.00 Bluebell Ramble (3/4) 8.30 Leaders Tapes (4/4) 9.00 Cajun Clubhouse (5/6) 9.30 Nigel Ogden 10.30 The Jamesons 12.05pm Steve Madden, incl Pauses for Thought 3.00 Alie Lester

RADIO 5 LIVE
5.00am Morning Reports 6.00 The Breakfast Programme, incl 6.55, 7.55 Racing review 8.30 The Magazine 9.00 David Dimbleby 10.00 Sports Extra 11.30 Wildlife News with Euan McLean 12.00 Midday with Mai, incl at 12.34pm Moneycheck and at 1.15 Entertainment News 2.05 Ruscoe on Five, incl at 3.05 Ruscoe Returns and Racing from Newmarket 3.45 Entertainment News 4.00 John Inverdale 4.30 National and at 4.45 John Inverdale 5.00 7.00 Sports Extra, and 7.20 sports 7.25 Travel Bookings's Football Night 10.05 News at 11.00 Night Extra incl at 11.15 Financial World Tonight 12.05am After Hours 2.05 Up All Night

RADIO 6 LIVE
6.30am The Breakfast Show with Paul Ross 10.00 Scott Chisholm 11.00 Anna Reuben 3.00 Tommy Boyd 5.00 Peter Desley 7.00 Sport 10.00 James Whistle 1.00 Ian Colins

RADIO 3
6.00am On Air, with Andrew MacGregor-Bird (Mass for Four Voices); Delius (Cello Concerto); Vivaldi (Violin Concerto in G, Op 7 No 8); Bach (Prelude and Fugue on Bachs St. Matthew Mass); Brahms (Piano Trio Op 3 No 2); The First Kiss; Op 26 No 1; Gershwin (Second Rhapsody)

RADIO 4
Morning Collection, with Catriona Young, Chopin (Polonaises, Op post in G minor and B flat, 1817); Elizabeth Williams (Mass in G minor); Walton (Viola Concerto)

RADIO 10 MUSICAL ENCOUNTERS
Presented by Piers Burton-Page, *Artist of the Week*; Charles Groves conducts the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra; Grace Williams dances on Welsh Nursery Tales; 10.15 Chopin (Medley, Act 3); Stenhammar (Scherzo, Op 1); Haydn (Piano Sonata in C, Op 48); Prokofiev (Dramas); Smirnov (Sonata for Flute and Harp); Shostakovich (Scherzo, Op 1); Delius (Song of the Earth)

RADIO 7
Composers of the Week: Debussy, includes excerpts from Preludes et Mélodies, starring George Shirley, tenor, and Elisabeth Söderström, soprano

RADIO 12
1.00 Birmingham Luncheon Concert, 4, 10am Studio One, Pebble Mill, Merton Sefer, violin, and Caroline Palmer, piano, British (Suite, Op 6), Beethoven Violin Sonata in G Op 96

RADIO 13
2.00 Composer of the Week: Georg Muffat (r) 2.30 Steel Jazz Notes with Digby Fairweather 3.00 Midweek Choice, presented

RADIO 4
5.55pm Shipping Forecast (LW) only 6.00 News Briefing incl weather 6.10 Farming Today 6.25 Prayer for the Day 6.30 Today incl 7.25, 8.25 Sport, 9.45 Weather for the Day 8.40 Yesterday in Parliament 8.58 Weather

RADIO 5
8.00 News 9.05 Midweek. With Times columnist Libby Purves and guests

RADIO 10
10.00 A Retailing Fellow (FM only) 11.00 Daily Service (FM only)

RADIO 11
10.15 This Script'd Isle (LW only) 10.30 Women's Hour 11.30 Gardeners' Question Time 12.00 News; You and Yours

RADIO 12
12.25pm Chamber, a new five-part series by Christopher Coleman, about the questionable practices of a group of barristers. With John Bird, James Fleet and Lesley Sharp 12.55 Weather

RADIO 13
1.00 The World at One, with Nick Clegg 1.45 The Archers 1.55 Shipping

RADIO 2
2.00 News; London Particulars. The second of a two-part Victorian detective thriller by John Peacock, with Tod Carly and Charles Simpson

RADIO 3
3.00 News; The Afternoon Shift 4.00 News 4.05 Kaleidoscope

RADIO 4
5.00 News 5.55 Shipping Forecast 5.55 Weather 6.00 Six O'Clock News 6.30 Counterpoint, with Ned Sherrin (r)

RADIO 5
7.00 News 7.05 The Archers

RADIO 6
7.20 Science and Wonder — In a society where we have a greater understanding of the human brain, is there room for the religious language of the spirit? (3/5)
8.05 Midweek Choice. See Choice
8.35 Key Witness. Sir Frank Roberts discusses with Alan Watson his involvement with British foreign policy in Iraq, Iran and Libya 8.45-8.55 (1/3)
8.50 Cooking the Books. Mark Whittaker looks at the relationship between technology and the people charged with protecting the environment 9.30 Kaleidoscope (r) 9.55
RADIO 7
10.00 The World Tonight, with Robin Lustig 10.45 Book at Bedtime: The Devil's Own Work, by Alan Judd (3/5) 11.00 Seymour the Fractur Cat. The comedy adventure by Gary Parker, with Greg Proops and John Hegley (2/5)
11.30 We Know Everything (FM only) 12.00 That's Not to Say... 12.30 Questions to Guests reviewed by Don Gaster and Paul Powell (r)
12.30 Today in Parliament (LW only)
11.45 Elastic Planet (FM only). The first of a six-part comedy of connections by Ben Moor, with Miriam Margolyes, Dan Strauss, Kerry Shale, Michael Simkins and Gary Waldholm (1/6)
12.00 News incl 12.27am weather 12.30 The Late Book Kitchen, by Banana Yoshimoto. Read by Emily Wood (3/6) 12.45pm Shipping Forecast 1.00 As World Service

8.30PM TONIGHT

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Explore the world of the unknown with THE UNEXPLAINED

Every day this week only on Discovery Channel

8.30pm 10.30pm 12.30am 2.30am

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Hands up, who'd like to lose their marbles?

This morning we should testing telephone vote. Would Britons restore the Elgin Marbles to the Parthenon? At the end of William G. Stewart's *Without Walls* programme last night (Channel 4), he gave out those yes/no 089 numbers as if to say "But that's enough from me. Those Greeks believed in democracy! Come on, folks; now you decide."

Now this was in fact a cunning twist to that wonderful old idea of democracy that the Greeks dreamt up. Because, in case you didn't see it, Stewart's "Fifteen to One Special" was a thorough, reasoned plea in favour of cultural restitution, with all potential objections neatly answered and dispatched. In the course of an hour, the case for retaining the Marbles was made only twice: by Sir David Wilson losing his temper in an old interview ("it's cultural fascism") and by Lord Inglewood of Herri-

gate. So when this vote was proposed, a whiff of rodent stayed my eager hand. "Jeremy Paxman wouldn't approve of this," I told myself, firmly. Which was reason enough (as always).

So today an overwhelming telephone vote may suggest that the British will give the Marbles back, while actually proving nothing of the sort. Personally I agree with Stewart on this issue, but that horsey phrase "own worst enemy" applied to this programme, as it so frequently does to this compulsively lark-driven series, was what the lark last night? Well, of course, place Stewart in his regular *Fifteen to One* studio, where he is a game show host, with busts of Greek gods in place of contestants. Reduce the issue to question-and-answer! Present the proceedings in a flatly lit long-shot of Stewart's double-breasted blazer! Mercifully, at least the Greek gods did not take part in a knockout quiz —

perhaps because, in the usual uncooperative manner of Greek statuary, some of them were facing the wrong way.

Stewart's only weak argument was his emotional appeal. If Hitler had stolen Nelson's Column and erected it in Berlin, we would demand its return, wouldn't we? Remember Nelson's Column, he urged us. But try getting worked up about this hypothetical, try shaking your fist in the direction of Berlin, and you will find it does not come easily.

Yesterday afternoon *The Lowdown* (BBC1) concerned a young would-be magician called Keelan Leyser. At one point, he consulted David Berglas, the president of the Magic Circle, and Berglas performed a trick: "Name any card," said Berglas. Leyser chose the six of hearts. Berglas cast a full pack of cards on to the table, and the six of

hearts jumped out. "How did you do that?" asked the wide-eyed youth. "Very well," came the reply. It was a nice moment, but its smart evasion kept haunting me as the evening progressed. Both *The Works* and *The Technophobe's Guide to the Future* (both BBC2) seemed frustratingly low on explanation, even though intended for intelligent viewers. "How do they do that?" I kept asking; to the

reply, "Oh, you know, well enough." Perhaps I was misled by the title of *The Works*, but in this first of a new series of artsy documentaries, the story concerned a dangerously flawed office block in Manhattan — Citicorp — and it seemed quite crucial to ascertain, you know, why it was in danger of falling down. Especially if, when it fell, it was predicted to initiate a domino effect, knocking down skyscrapers all the way to Central Park.

But by the end of half an hour, I just knew that "How did they do that?" was "Dangerously". The physics were still a mystery. But then, to be fair, the physics seemed mysterious to the people who'd built it, too. Engineer William LeMessurier explained how he had subsequently worked out the wind factor required to knock down the building, and calculated it occurred every 16 years. "I'm 52," he said: "it could happen in my

lifetime." This was a surprise not only for its selfish logic, but because the poor bloke looked 70 if he was a day.

A s it determined not to tip over in a wind itself, *All Fall Down* was a rather stoical documentary. Just as the physics were missing, so was drama, which was odd. I mean, for heaven's sake, these men were faced at one point with the decision to "own up" and evacuate an enormous area in the most famous city in the world. Hurricane Ella approached, the clock ticked on the wall, the repair-work spot-welding on the building was only half done, and down below New Yorkers blithely hailed calls, raised umbrellas, and ate cheesecake, unaware of the disaster movie unfolding above their heads.

I'm not saying *The Works* should have employed a sooty-but-brave Bruce Willis, welding at

midnight in a vest. But *All Fall Down* was oddly lacking in narrative excitement: it was almost dreamlike. Last autumn's documentary series *The Limit* (BBC2) tackled similar engineering stories to much greater effect. Perhaps the problem here was that the engineers were still poleaxed from the horror of it all.

Finally, *The Technophobe's Guide to the Future* is a lively magazine with youthful, big-personality presenters who test new techno products rather than explain how they work. But it is enjoyable, and it has statistics. Apparently 650,000 people in Britain have home cinema systems. One such, visited by Dominik Diamond, had spent £33,000 on it. "You can buy a lot of things for £33,000," said Diamond. "A very good car, an extremely poor centre forward, or 165,000 bags of crisps." An admirable effort, I thought, to get the thing in perspective.

REVIEW



Lynne Truss

6.00am Business Breakfast (BBC2)

7.00 BBC Breakfast News (Ceefax) 13543

9.00 Breakfast News Extra (Ceefax) 7775920

9.20 Can't Cook, Won't Cook (s) 7909882

9.45 Kifroy (s) (1086475) 10.30 Good Morning with Anne and Nick (s) 916111

12.00 News (Ceefax), regional news and weather (761165)

12.05pm Room for Improvement. Includes a look at the house in Northern Ireland which claims to contain Ireland's smallest church (s) 8549475

12.25 Going for Gold with Harry Kelly, today celebrating his 50th birthday (s) (3690833)

1.00 One O'Clock News (Ceefax) and weather (16830) 1.30 Regional News and weather (94332630)

1.40 Neighbours (Ceefax) (s) 4441494

2.00 Snowy River — the McGregor Saga (s) (60111)

3.30 Playdays (r) (s) (150368) 3.50 The Silver Brumby (s) (1581404) 4.15 Funnybones (r) (s) (5254833) 4.20 Jonny Briggs (r) (Ceefax) (6482253) 4.35 Rugrats (r) (Ceefax) (s) (9379185)

5.00 Newaround (Ceefax) (1882036)

5.10 Buck Peter (Ceefax) (s) (1071340)

5.35 Neighbours (r) (Ceefax) (s) (551369)

6.00 Six O'Clock News (Ceefax) and weather (524)

6.30 Regional News magazines (104)

7.00 Relatively Speaking. Gordon Burns hosts the family game show. (Ceefax) (s) (3249)

7.30 Here and Now, Sue Lawley and the team present hard-hitting investigations (Ceefax) (s) (368)

8.00 Heart of Gold. Esther Rantzen and Carol Smillie return with the show that pays tribute to acts of courage and kindness by unsung heroes. Today Lord Rix and Sue Cook help to perform the elaborate ruses which lure the unsuspecting winners to the studio to collect their awards. (Ceefax) (s) (859543)

8.50 Points of View. (Ceefax) (s) (70833)

9.00 Nine O'Clock News (Ceefax) regional news and weather (2814)

9.30 Madcap with Ian McShane (Ceefax) (s) (233656)

10.20 Sportlight, introduced by Tony Gubba, with Trevor Brooking. Football: highlights of Manchester United v Leeds United at Old Trafford and Newcastle United at home to Southampton. Snooker: a profile of John Higgins who is second favourite behind fellow Scot Stephen Hendry to take this year's World Championship (s) (521082)

11.40 FILM: Flashback (1990) with Kiefer Sutherland and Dennis Hopper. A young FBI agent forms a bond with 1960s radical as he is assigned to escort across California to jail. During the journey the captive regales his fellow travellers with stories of the Swinging Sixties. Directed by Franco Amuri (Ceefax) (s) (645833)

1.25pm Weather (7621505)

VideoPlus+ and the VideoPlanCodes

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6.00am Open University: Maths (7609630) 6.25 Light in Search of a Model (7528765) 6.50 Handel's Messiah (8502307)

7.15 See Hear Breakfast News (4689630)

7.30 Teenage Mutant Hero Turtles (r) (Ceefax) (34036)

8.00 The Lowdown (r) (Ceefax) (s) (1202036) 8.25 Wishing (r) (s) (1226302)

8.40 The Record (8420197)

9.05 Daytime on Two. Educational programmes. Plus, for children, 10.00-10.35 Playdays (7633291)

2.00 Wishing (r) (1379610)

2.10 The Andrew Neil Show (s) (5970272)

3.00 News (Ceefax) and weather (7636630) 3.05 Westminster (7622675) 3.55 News (Ceefax) (2833104)

4.00 Today's the Day (s) (807)

4.30 Ready, Steady, Cook (s) (901)

5.00 The Oprah Winfrey Show: Night Terrors. Guests have suffered horrific dreams. (Ceefax) (s) (1936861)

5.40 A Week to Remember (b/w) (842472)

5.50 More Secret Gardens: Upper Grotto Road, Twickenham. This patch of garden is the size of a double garage and was designed with advancing age and artistry in mind (120843)

6.00 Star Trek: The Next Generation (Ceefax) (s) (781476)

6.45 Buck Rogers in the 25th Century: Flight of the War Witch (r) (522949)

7.30 East: The Hidden Troubles. (Ceefax) (s) (630)

8.00 University Challenge: Selwyn College, Cambridge v the London School of Economics in the final semi-final. (Ceefax) (s) (4681)

8.30 Home Front. Ten top tips to help to sell your house, the comeback of wrought iron in the bedroom and Linda Barker's Finishing Touch (Ceefax) (s) (9746)

9.00 Modern Times: Ellen's in Exile. About an alleged victim of child abuse (Ceefax) (s) (8727)

10.00 Stepfathers and Sons. Classic comedy (r) (Ceefax) (72611)

10.30 Newsnight. With Peter Snow (Ceefax) (909611)

11.15 Mirror On... Chapter Seven. A high-profile court case viewed from inside and outside the courtroom (r) (Ceefax) (s) (674562)

12.00 The Midnight Hour with Andrew Neil (s) (51654)

12.30pm Open University: Duccio — the Rucellai Madonna (475856) 1.00 Running the Country: Global Media (94854) 2.00 Night School: Modern Languages: German Collection (45983) 4.00 Skills Focus: Benefits Agency Today (46505) 4.30 Disability Today (55429) 5.00 Voluntary Sector Television (56079)

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OXFORD TAKE THE HONOURS IN OPENING FIXTURE

SPORT

WEDNESDAY APRIL 17 1996

RACING 45

THRILLING DAY RAISES STAKES AT NEWMARKET

Three new faces in England squad

Venables makes alternative arrangements

BY ROB HUGHES, FOOTBALL CORRESPONDENT

ONE man's injury is another's opportunity and England's preparations for the European football championship have been carved up as though with a surgeon's knife. Yesterday, Terry Venables named his squad for the considerable test against Croatia at Wembley next Wednesday and included Jason Wilcox, the Blackburn Rovers winger, who, 13 months after an operation to repair a cruciate ligament, has the chance to challenge for a place on the left side of England's Euro '96 team.

In the same breath, the England coach had to announce that Alan Shearer is out of the Croatia game. He will enter hospital tomorrow morning for an operation to cure a persistent groin strain.

The Blackburn news, good and bad, overshadowed muted celebrations in London, where two of the capital's young and gifted sons are on the threshold of their first appearances for the full England side. Such is the paucity of fit England centre backs — Tony Adams, Gary Pallister, Steve Howard and Gareth Southgate are all absent — that opportunity knocks for Ugo Ehiogu, of Aston Villa, born 23 years ago in Hackney, and Sol Campbell, 21, of Tottenham Hotspur and from Newham in east London. Both are mobile, adventurous players, and one or other will play against Croatia, probably alongside Mark Wright, of Liverpool, a man at the other extreme of the age limit and another wrestling with injury.

So the medical bulletins go on and on around Venables. At Highbury, on Monday night, he checked on the form

of Campbell, whose pace and resilience matched Ian Wright until late in the game, he surrendered to cramp. But Venables also witnessed the return of Darren Anderton, a player he hopes even more earnestly will recuperate from a long absence through injury.

On the field for just 12 minutes, Anderton nevertheless displayed the gliding movement, the touch and vision for which Venables was looking. He is omitted from the squad to allow Tottenham to give him as many matches

whether there is an ounce of residual fear in the player.

And, if it seemed curious that Blackburn should report yesterday that Shearer intends to play against Wimbledon tonight — indeed he is determined to score his thirteenth goal of the season before meeting the scalpel — then let the player speak for himself: "It's disappointing, but by doing what I'm doing now [having the operation], the specialist is confident that I will be fit for Euro '96." Time will tell.

Venables took the news philosophically; he had no choice. Theoretically, he has the very best English players to select from, but it is a fact that, come the moments that matter, prized players are wounded.

While Venables has called up Stan Collymore to fill Shearer's boots, he is likely to persevere with the Birmingham-Ferdinand combination which troubled Bulgaria last month. Fowler and Collymore is an alternative, but alternative is the key word.

Ehiogu, 6ft 6in and more than 12 stone, has risen tall since West Bromwich Albion sold him for £40,000 to Villa. He had an intriguing battle of wits and speed with Faustino Asprilla on Sunday. Ehiogu, a defender who can operate in the three-man rearguard which Venables would like to use, was stretched to the limits, twice badly fouling the Colombian, but nevertheless stuck to his task, to his elusive man, like a veteran.

For a whole year, Wilcox has looked on in frustration as Blackburn Rovers have lost their balance without his contribution on the left. Now, after just five games, Wilcox may possess more freshness and stamina than most: the question Venables must ask is

He is more likely than Campbell to make the team against Croatia. Yet Campbell is evidence of Venables' long memory, and of the efforts to provide a link between England schoolboy potential and the full national side.

Campbell was taught the game by John Cartwright, at England's School of Excellence, then reschooled under Osvaldo Ardiles and Venables as he rose swiftly into the Tottenham first team. Playing left back, right back, his preferred midfield, centre forward and centre half, this boy, whom his colleagues in the victorious 1993 England European Youth Cup-winning team dubbed Garth, seemed to accept every challenge.

Amazingly, for one who suffered from cramp a couple of nights ago, his physique seems never to have rebelled for long against the loads inflicted upon it. While still growing, physically and mentally, he has come through three turbulent seasons in Premiership football, and those who know him well have no doubts that he will adapt and stay in the England team, given the chance.

Premier League rules then call for a play-off on a neutral ground. Although such a match would fill Wembley, finding a suitable date could be a problem if Liverpool and Manchester United draw in the FA Cup Final on May 11. A positive result would leave the replay date, May 16, free for a play-off. With England play-

ing Hungary on May 18 and departing for their Far East tour two days later, the schedule otherwise is tight.

"I don't think it's fair to pile everything on one extra game after a 38-game season," Terry McDermott, the Newcastle assistant manager, said yesterday. Alternatives, however, are thin on the ground. A decision based on the meetings between the clubs would give the title to United: shar-

ing Hungary on May 18 and departing for their Far East tour two days later, the schedule otherwise is tight.

Premiership Southampton have only won one away game and Newcastle have lost at home only once all season.

With Coventry City, who occupy the third relegation place a point behind Southampton, playing at Nottingham Forest tonight, the situation is almost as tight at the bottom. Manchester City have the worst goal difference by a long way, but if they were to escape, it is conceivable — especially if Newcastle run riot tonight — that Southampton and Coventry could also require a play-off.

Figa stays behind as Sobanska defends her title

BY DAVID POWELL
ATHLETICS CORRESPONDENT

SOME get to compete in the Mora London Marathon, others get no further than training for it. Figa the dachshund has been running 45 miles a week in preparation for the race on Sunday, but Figa has been left at home while Malgorzata Sobanska, its owner, defends the title she won last year. Dogs are not allowed to run in the London Marathon. Anyway, where would you pin a number on a dachshund?

Sobanska trains twice a day and, on the second run, the easy one, her pet goes with her. Figa is best out of it this weekend because Sunday will not be easy. Sobanska, from Poland, faces among others, Liz McColgan, a Scottish terrier if ever there was one.

When Sobanska won last year, it took her national federation and parents by surprise. "Her family were watching on Eurosport and they were all crying — mother, aunt, sister, father," Piotr Mankowski, her coach, said. Though a Sobanska victory would be no surprise — she has recently set personal bests at five and 15 kilometres — her parents will not attend. They will watch on television in Poland. "My mother worries, so it's best they do not come," Sobanska said.

Dionicio Cerón, from Mexico, the men's defending champion, will have none of his family in London either. "Why would you take your wife to work?" Cerón said at last year's marathon. Racing is strictly business for Cerón, who, if he becomes the first man to win three successive London marathons and sets a world best, will take his earnings from the event to about \$1 million.

Is he confident? "I am looking for victory, but I am human and sometimes a human has problems," Cerón, the only athlete to beat 2hr 9min twice in London, said. Two recent half-marathons — in 61min 9sec and 62min 10sec — speak of a champion in form. With arguably the strongest field in the history of the event there to challenge Cerón, no wonder David Bedford, the elite race director, was suggesting yesterday that London could see its first sub-2hr 8min race. Greyhound rather than dachshund pace.



Cerón and Sobanska add a spring to their step yesterday as they prepare for the marathon. Photograph: Robin Mayes

Title race approaches extra time

BY PETER BALL

THE FA Carling Premiership title last year was not decided until the last day of the season.

With the finishing post looming into view, Manchester United and Newcastle United take the latest fences tonight knowing that it could go even further this time, with the first championship play-off needed to separate the clubs.

Manchester United go into the game against Leeds United at Old Trafford with the advantage of a three-point lead, a goal difference of 29 against 27 and they have scored two more goals than Newcastle, who meet Southampton at St James' Park.

Should it remain the same after tonight, should Newcastle win their game in hand 2-0 and should the teams' other results match, they will finish with identical records.

Premier League rules then call for a play-off on a neutral ground. Although such a match would fill Wembley, finding a suitable date could be a problem if Liverpool and Manchester United draw in the FA Cup Final on May 11. A positive result would leave the replay date, May 16, free for a play-off. With England play-

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ing Hungary on May 18 and departing for their Far East tour two days later, the schedule otherwise is tight.

"I don't think it will come to that," Alex Ferguson, the Manchester United manager, said after training yesterday, "but we know how important goals are now."

Southampton's win against Manchester United on Saturday, which opened up the Premiership race again, and the return to form of Matthew Le Tissier will send them to St James' Park with more confidence than seemed likely. "Le Tissier was superb against us," Ferguson said, but in the

end, the title, as has happened in the cricket county championship, would not yield an entrant for the European Cup.

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end, the title, as has happened in the cricket county championship, would not yield an entrant for the European Cup.

The first should be true, given England's superior playing strength to all save France, but history shows that only within the past six years, in modern times, has it been the case. The second ignores the fact that the championship sustains its fascination not because of the quality of play but because of its sheer unpredictability.

The RFU understands that the five nations' committees are considering the five nations' format for the future. "Tony Hallen, the RFU secretary said: "We believe that all unions will be able to benefit individually from our decision."

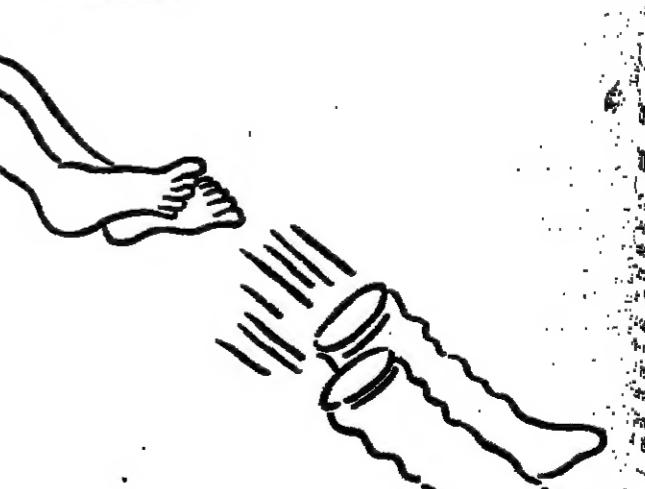
The implicit threat is that they will refuse to play England in the foreseeable future, which will also mean the end of tours abroad by the British Isles (they are due to visit South Africa next year) and cause immense damage to the game's fabric in the northern hemisphere.

The other member unions of the committee will now be requested to consider the future format of the five nations' championship and additionally the question of relationships at all international representative levels, a statement said after the five nations' committee met in Dublin yesterday, adding ominously: "This breakaway from England from the existing arrangements could have im-

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MORSE

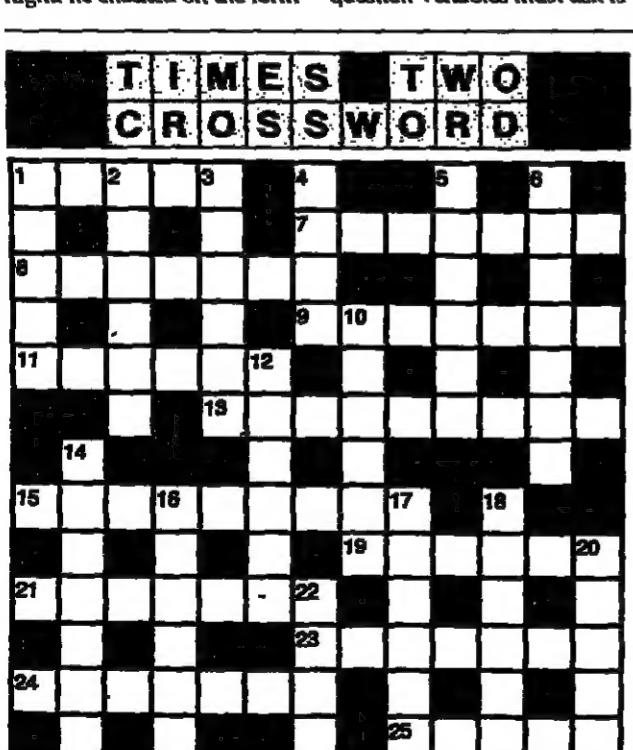


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ACROSS

- 1 Leafy shelter; violinist? (5)
- 2 Member of inner circle (7)
- 3 Gravelly beach; English (anag.) (7)
- 4 A Glorious day: a Shakespearean Night? (7)
- 5 Transfixing pin (6)
- 6 Gogol comic novel (4,5)
- 7 Thick fog (3-6)
- 8 Bede, Cuthbert lie in its cathedral? (6)
- 9 Trying to be refined, proper (7)
- 10 Initially (2,5)
- 11 Crane; oil-well framework (7)
- 12 Throw out (5)
- 13 Ground, principle (5)
- 14 Cuff, 3彭chant, 8Tearful, 10Roost, 11Horror story, 13Levite, 15Steady, 17Siderocket, 20Aroma, 21Maestro, 22Hush-hush, 23Lyre
- 15 Bedevilled, 2Flair, 4Enlist, 5Car boot sale, 6Apolyte, 7Tuna, 9Flag to death, 12Syndrome
- 16 Viscous, 18Stamp, 19Kitty, 20Rash

SOLUTION TO NO 757

- AROSS: 1 Cuff, 3彭chant, 8Tearful, 10Roost, 11Horror story, 13Levite, 15Steady, 17Siderocket, 20Aroma, 21Maestro, 22Hush-hush, 23Lyre
- DOWN: 2 Bedevilled, 3Flair, 4Enlist, 5Car boot sale, 6Apolyte, 7Tuna, 9Flag to death, 12Syndrome
- 14 Viscous, 18Stamp, 19Kitty, 20Rash

SOLUTION TO TIMES TWO CROSSWORD 753

- In association with BRITISH MIDLAND
- ACROSS: 1 Tundra, 5Mope, 8Acne, 9Apoplexy, 10Bull's-eye, 11Oven, 12Shinto, 14Nimbus, 16Shot, 18Reticent, 20Detainee, 21Comb, 22Waif, 23Trendy
- DOWN: 2Uncouth, 3Dwell, 4An axe to grind, 5Malcolm, 6Piste, 7Comon a treat, 13Not half, 15Unnamed, 17Hyena, 19Cache

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lications for British Lions tour.

THE five nations will meet again on April 27 in Dublin, but the Rugby Football Union (RFU), adopting the position of a party more inclined against than in favour, said that it sought a practice prevalent in other sports and added that France had always negotiated their own television rights.

The RFU understands that the five nations' committees are considering the five nations' format for the future, which will also mean the end of tours abroad by the British Isles (they are due to visit South Africa next year) and cause immense damage to the game's fabric in the northern hemisphere.

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dictions to which Ireland, Scotland or Wales contribute.

What England may justifiably try to sell for themselves is competitions in which their clubs are involved. That is precisely what Wales do, making their own arrangements with BBC Wales and the Welsh language channel, S4C. England followed suit by grabbing 85 per cent of the £7 million contract with Sky Sports, but the timing of their breakaway now, when they are at odds with the clubs who are their product, is appalling.

It is an illustration of rugby's weakness in the market place, vis-à-vis football, that it seeks to sell all its products on the back of the international game. The five nations have written to ten broadcast companies, inviting tenders for the championship and seven other competitions, among them European, Anglo-Welsh, cross-border and domestic league and cup. On the other hand, there is a variety available capable of sustaining a relationship with the mixed economies of terrestrial and satellite television.

When the dust has settled, this, maybe, is what the game will have.



Hallen: "benefit to all"

and radio listings compiled by

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